

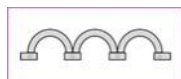
# Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Eucharist with **Spiritual Communion****  
(Order One – Eucharistic Prayer B)

**In Time of Pandemic**



## **HYMNS**

### **Voluntary**

Shine Jesus Shine, composed by Graham Kendrick (b. 1950).

### **Introit:**

Love divine, all loves excelling

### **Gradual:**

Christ is the Light of All the World

### **Offertory:**

Sing we of the blessed mother

### **Post Communion:**

We Hail Thy Presence Glorious

### **Recessional:**

King of Glory, King of Peace

### **Voluntary**

With Joy We Meditate the Grace (Tallis' Ordinal)

**INTROIT HYMN Love divine, all loves excelling**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Meter: 87 87 D

**Love divine, all loves excelling,**

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

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BLAENWERN

Traditional Welsh melody

William Penfro Rowlands (1860 – 1937)

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## COLLECT FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophecy of Malachi



Thus says the Lord God: <sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

*Malachi 3.1-5*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM

Some verses from Psalm 24

Please join me in reading the second part of each verse after the asterisk

- 1 The earth is the Lord’s and all that fills it, \*  
**the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.**
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas \*  
**and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**
- 3 ‘Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, \*  
**or who can rise up in his holy place?’**
- 4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \*  
**who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie;**

- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, \*  
**a just reward from the God of their salvation.'**
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, \*  
**of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;  
 be lifted up, you everlasting doors; \*  
**and the King of glory shall come in.**
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' \*  
**'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
 the Lord who is mighty in battle.'**
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;  
 be lifted up, you everlasting doors; \*  
**and the King of glory shall come in.**
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' \*  
**'The Lord of hosts,  
 he is the King of glory.'**

*Psalm 24.1-10*

## **SECOND READING**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

<sup>14</sup>Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

<sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Hebrews 2.14-18*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL HYMN Christ Is The Light Of All The World**

- 1 Christ is the light of all the world,  
 Yet with the darkest night;  
 Lit by His glory and His love,  
 He turns the dark to light.
- 2 Christ came into a world of sin,  
 To cast the dark away;  
 He came to bring mankind the light,  
 And give the brightest day.
- 3 He is the light with which we shine,  
 When we call Him our friend;  
 He is our Saviour and our Lord,  
 We'll serve Him to the end.
- 4 We'll shine for Him in this dark world,  
 We'll be a lamp of grace;

We'll boldly go into the dark  
'Til we stand face to face.

Meter: CM

### **Christ Is The Light Of All The World**

Colin Gordon-Farleigh

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Wiltshire

George Thomas Smart (1776 – 1867)

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### **GOSPEL READING**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,  
proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to *Luke*. (+)

**All (+) Glory to you, O Lord.**

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Luke 2.22-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

Today is pivot point between the celebration of the incarnation through the forty days of Christmas, which include in lectionary order, not a logical sequence, the Epiphany, the Holy Innocents, and the Baptism of Christ, with several saints' days and the Conversion of Paul along the way— and the preparation for Christ's Passion.

Today, we come to the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas. Huge importance is placed on the first-born in the Jewish tradition, not least in terms of sacrifice. The killing of the Holy Innocents reminds us that Christ was born into a real world with real evil at work. He had a real life that ended with him being killed by the authorities, as the other innocents had been. Then, he became for us a 'full and perfect sacrifice' so that we may live. To use the phrase from this morning's Gospel, God's 'light for the revelation of the gentiles' (v32) was not to be extinguished by Herod. At Jesus' baptism in the flowing Jordan we are reminded of the Jewish tradition of purification is important

After childbirth was one such time of purification when women were required to undergo ritual purification and, so, forty days after Jesus was born, Mary went with Jesus to the temple for that ceremony. Indeed, the early Church called the festival we are celebrating today, the Purification of the BVM. It was marked by a procession of candles into church, as Mary brought the saving light into the world, so lights were symbolically brought into church before communion. It was from that tradition that the festival earned the mediaeval nickname of Candlemas. More importantly, Jesus was presented to God in the House of God, as Malachi foretold.

When Malachi was writing, God's people were in exile far from home and Temple -- and far from God. The announcement of God's coming in this passage from Malachi is surely all they long for? But, there is a warning in Malachi's words, the people should not assume that the coming will be a comfortable experience. The work of a fuller was an essential part of the treatment of freshly woven cloth to make it supple, pure and ready to use. Fuller's soap is very caustic -- it is made from plant and wood ash -- and its use is to clean and swell new cloth. This vigorous process involved washing and bleaching, soaking and beating until the fibres were in a consistent and desirable condition. Cloth was not ready for use until the fuller had cleaned and thickened the cloth -- thus making it 'full'.

Malachi is telling us that God is working on his people as a fuller works on new cloth -- vigorously working our spiritual fibres into a consistent and desirable condition, to be a full and effective offering in his service -- just as Jesus would be. Like all purifying work, it is rough and rugged, but it has to be to do its work; just as Jesus exemplified. This image also warns *us* against underestimating the demands of a life of faith and obedience.

In the Temple, not one but two holy people with lives steeped in faith and obedience, recognised Jesus as being from God, and I should bear in mind that neither was a priest, Simeon says that Mary's soul would be pierced; we know that her child was to be crucified; it was surely pierced then. Simeon and Anna recognised God's work was for real, our personal challenge is to make Christ real in our lives. Malachi tells us that God is working on us as a fuller works on cloth, Anna and Simeon's example encourages us to wait on God. Coming to know God and discerning his will are not instantaneous events, even if we experience a dramatic conversion like St Paul's. Even St Paul needed time to develop his understanding. Discernment is a slow, almost imperceptible growth in spiritual insight, In hope and trust, how much time are we prepared to give to waiting on God.

Today we have heard Luke's glorious proclamation that Jesus has come for 'All Peoples' and that he is a 'light' for all nations – including you and me if we give him the time and commitment, the faith and obedience. Amen.

**OFFERTORY HYMN Sing We Of The Blessed Mother**

- 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angels' word,  
And obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the Joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.
- 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning from the awful tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.
- 3 Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Tokened in the wind and flame.
- 4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May thy Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

Sing we of the Blessed Mother  
George Bourne Timms (1910 – 1997)  
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Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907 – 1991)  
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**POST-COMMUNION HYMN** **We Hail Thy Presence Glorious**

- 1 We hail thy Presence glorious,  
O Christ our great high Priest,  
O'er sin and death victorious,  
At thy thanksgiving feast:  
As thou art interceding  
For us in heaven above,  
Thy Church on earth is pleading  
Thy perfect work of love.
- 2 Through thee in every nation  
Thine own their hearts upraise,  
Offering one pure Oblation,  
One Sacrifice of praise:  
With thee in blest communion  
The living and the dead  
Are joined in closest union,  
One Body with one Head.
- 3 O living Bread from heaven,  
Jesu, our Saviour good,  
Who thine own self hast given  
To be our souls' true food;  
For us thy body broken  
Hung on the Cross of shame:  
This Bread its hallowed token  
We break in thy dear name.
- 4 O stream of love unending,  
Poured from the one true Vine,  
With our weak nature blending  
The strength of life divine;  
Our thankful faith confessing  
In thy life-blood outpoured,  
We drink this Cup of blessing  
And praise thy name, O Lord.
- 5 May we thy word believing  
Thee through thy gifts receive,  
That, thou within us living,  
We all to God may live;  
Draw us from earth to heaven  
Till sin and sorrow cease,  
Forgiving and forgiven,  
In love and joy and peace.

Meter: 76 76 D

**We Hail Thy Presence Glorious**

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*OFFERTORIUM*

Johann Michael Haydn (1737 – 1806)  
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## Candlemas Procession

### Prayer

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of your faithful people  
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up this temple to your glory,  
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,  
and so be counted worthy to stand before you  
in that eternal city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### Nunc Dimittis

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
**your word has been fulfilled.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
**which you have prepared in the sight of every people.**

A light to reveal you to the nations:  
**and the glory of your people Israel.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.**  
**Amen.**

### Final Responsory

Father, here we bring to an end  
our celebration of the Saviour's birth.  
**Help us, in whom he has been born,  
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.  
**Help us, who have received the bread of life,  
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.  
**Help us, who bear these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

### *Move to Font*

Here we stand near the place of baptism.  
**Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.  
**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.  
**Help us, who now go in peace,**

**to shine with your light in the world.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We stand near the place of new birth.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We turn from the crib to the cross.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We go to carry his light.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN King of Glory, King of Peace**

- 1 King of glory, King of peace,  
I will love Thee;  
And that love may never cease,  
I will move Thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
Thou hast heard me;  
Thou didst note my working breast,  
Thou hast spared me.
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing Thee,  
And the cream of all my heart  
I will bring Thee.  
Though my sins against me cried,  
Thou alone didst clear me;  
And alone, when they replied,  
Thou didst hear me.
- 3 Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
I will praise Thee;  
In my heart, though not in Heaven,  
I can raise Thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
To enroll Thee:  
E'en eternity's too short  
To extol Thee.

#### **King of Glory, King of Peace**

George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

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**GWALCHMAI**

Joseph David Jones (1827 – 1870)

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**Opening Voluntary:****Hymns****Processional:****Love divine, all loves excelling,**

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BLAENWERN

Traditional Welsh melody

William Penfro Rowlands (1860 – 1937)

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**Gradual:****Christ Is The Light Of All The World**

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**Offertory:****Sing we of the blessed Mother**

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**Recessional:**

**King of Glory, King of Peace**

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**GWALCHMAI**

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**Closing Voluntary:**

**With Joy We Meditate The Grace Lyrics**

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Tallis' Ordinal

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**With Joy We Meditate the Grace**

1. With joy we meditate the grace  
Of our High Priest above;  
His heart is made of tenderness,  
And ever yearns with love.
2. Touched with a sympathy within,  
He knows our feeble frame;  
He knows what sore temptations mean  
For he has felt the same.
3. He in the days of feeble flesh  
Poured out his cries and tears;  
And, in his measure, feels afresh  
What every member bears.
4. He'll never quench the smoking flax,  
But raise it to a flame;  
The bruised reed he never breaks,  
Nor scorns the meanest name.
5. Then let our humble faith address  
His mercy and his power:  
We shall obtain delivering grace  
In every needful hour.

Meter: CM.

**With Joy We Meditate The Grace Lyrics**

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Tallis' Ordinal

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