

# PARISHES OF TETBURY, BEVERSTON, SHIPTON MOYNE AND LONG NEWNTON

## Readings and hymns for Sunday 31st January 2021 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

### Gathering Prayer

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.**

### Old Testament

### Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;

the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.  
*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*
- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
*Chorus*
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.  
*Chorus*
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stones.  
*Chorus*
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.  
*Chorus*

*Bernadette Farrell (born 1957)*

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## Gospel

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 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.' 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes

have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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 seven years after her marriage, 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. 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. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **God is working his purpose out**

*sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields*

- 1 God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year,  
God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near;  
nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.
- 2 From utmost east to utmost west wherever feet have trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers goes forth the voice of God,  
'Give ear to me, ye continents, ye isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.'
- 3 What can we do to work God's work, to prosper and increase  
the love of God in all mankind, the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea?
- 4 All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;  
vainly we hope for the harvest-time till God gives life to the seed;  
yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

*Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)  
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