

PARISHES OF TETBURY, BEVERSTON, SHIPTON MOYNE AND LONG NEWNTON

Readings and Hymns for Sunday 28th January – Presentation of Christ

Gathering Prayer

Father, we have sung your praise
with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.
As we share now in the joy
of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.
As we greet Christ this day,
the light of the world;
may we be filled with
the light of your love.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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.

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

Angel voices ever singing

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| 1. Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee,
and confess thee
Lord of might. | 2. Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can. |
| 3. Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine. | 4. In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody. |
| 5. Honour; glory, might and merit,
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee. | |

Francis Pott (1832-1909) alt.

Shine Jesus shine

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| 1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us -
shine on me, shine on me. | <i>Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with love and mercy;</i> |
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*send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by the blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness
shine on me, shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine,

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display Your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story:
shine on me, shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine,

Reflection – Longing for Licht

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.*

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.
*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.
Christ be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ be our light!

Born in the night

1. Born in the night,
Mary's child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need,
Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.
2. Clear shining light,
Mary's child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world,
Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.
3. Truth of our life,
Mary's child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true,
Mary's child,
go to your cross of wood.
4. Hope of the world,
Mary's child,
you're coming soon to reign:
King of the earth,
Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.

Walk, walk in the light

1. Jesus is the Light for all:
Walk, walk in the light!
we follow him as we hear his call.
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk, walk in the light!
Walk, walk in the light!
Walk, walk in the light;
walk in the light of the Lord!.
2. The light of Jesus is yours and mine:
Walk, walk in the light!
never to hide it but to let it shine.
Walk, walk in the light! .
3. We walk together in Jesus' light:
Walk, walk in the light!
and let our own light shine so bright.
Walk, walk in the light!
4. Jesus leads us on our way:
Walk, walk in the light!
we help each other each and ev'ry day.
Walk, walk in the light!