

(Children return from Sunday Club)

SONG

Let all creation sing before the Lord

*and every nation of the earth rejoice,
let all the trees lift a shout of joy
for the Lord is King.*

*Let the deep waters of the sea resound,
let every mountain, every hill sing out,
let all the fields make a joyful sound
for the Lord is King.*

Mighty river, barren desert,
howling wind and stormy weather,
every canyon every valley,
sing your praise and give him glory.
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

Honey bees and weeping willows,
grizzly bears and armadillos,
every narwhal and sea otter,
every son and every daughter.
Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name.

BLESSING

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Let's pray together ...

- For joyful courage as we live out the good news of Jesus in our daily lives.
- For those who live under oppressive regimes or suffer the consequences of natural disasters.
- For our health service, the vulnerable and the sick.
- For the families and friends of Dot Hone, Frank Marchant, Enette Reid and all those who have lost loved ones.



ALPHA STARTS ON THUR 3 FEB

Thursdays at 7.30pm, St Mark's

It's not too late to...

Pray | Invite | Provide a Pudding

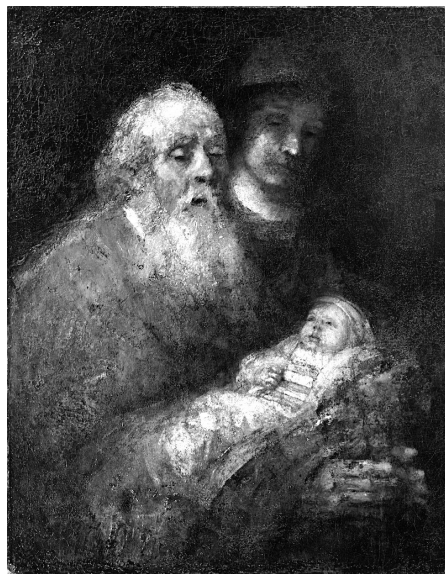
More at:

www.denhamparish.church/alpha

DIARY DATE: Church Army, Sun 20 Feb

On Sunday, 20 February, we will welcome Michael Cooper from The Church Army as our guest speaker. Church Army is one of our long-standing mission partners. Here is what they are about: "We strive to help those most in need. Through partnership and collaboration, we aspire to empower lives and nurture a sense of belonging in communities across the UK and Ireland."

Below: Rembrandt's painting of Simeon



Service Sheet

30th January 2022, 10.30am St Mary's
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website (www.denhamparish.church). *Christoph Lindner, Rector*

WELCOME

OPENING PSALM. Psalm 24.9-10

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Amen

HYMN

Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power
of human telling;
Nor can we guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

CONFESSION

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your
sins, heal and strengthen you by his
Spirit, and raise you to new life in
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations
and glory of Israel: make your home
among us, and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father, your God, and
our God. **Amen**

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www.denhamparish.church

SONG

Same, same, strong, strong, one, one (x3)

*New day, new life, a new adventure
God, I want to run with you today
New hope, new strength, a new adventure
Jesus, I will live for you today.*

You were the same God,
when my granny was a baby
You're the same God,
who is with me today
You'll be the same God,
when I'm terribly old
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!

You were the same God,
when you were a tiny baby
And the same God,
when you suffered and died
But you're alive now,
and your Spirit lives within me
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!

You are the same God
when I mess up, disappoint you
And you love me, you forgive me again
You know my future,
you know everything about me
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!

(Children leave for Sunday Club now)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Hebrews 2. 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Luke 2. 22-40

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 (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 for 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Simeon and Anna had never stopped waiting, hoping, anticipating. Maybe as Simeon walked up to the Temple that day he thought, "maybe this will be the day." He anticipated the day of visitation and remembered the words of the prophet, 'the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his Temple.'

And he knew as he held the baby in his arms that this was the moment, and this was the Messiah.

What are we hoping for, longing for, anticipating? If our eyes are open and our hearts are receptive, our patient perseverance will be rewarded and we will see the glory of the Lord. "Lord show us your Glory today."

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HYMN

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
til death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

PRAYERS

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**