

**The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton**  
*Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities*



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**Sunday 31 January 2021**  
***Simeon & Anna - Faith in Later Life***

**with Readers**  
**GILLIAN KERN & ROY PINNOCK**  
**& Lay Leader of Worship MAGGIE JEEVES**

**Recorded at**  
**St James the Apostle, Pulloxhill**

### Words of Welcome



*The steps of the Temple in Jerusalem – Gillian Kern*

### Opening Prayers

God is love  
and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

We come in worship to God

**All: We come in our need and bring with us the needs of the world.**

We come with our faith and our doubts.

**All: We come with our hopes and fears.**

We come as we are,

**All: Because it is God who invites us and we are welcome as his people.**

*(The Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon 2015)*

## The Collect

God of heaven  
You send the gospel to the ends of the earth  
And your messengers to every nation:  
Send your Holy Spirit to transform us  
By the good news of everlasting life  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Hymn: Christ whose glory fills the skies

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

## The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> 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.'

<sup>25</sup> 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.'

<sup>33</sup> 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.'

<sup>36</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> 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.

## Address

## Prayers

*Intercessions taken from 'New Patterns of Worship' by Church House Publishing.*

In the power of the Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, come to your people:

**All: In your mercy set us free.**

Searched for, Christ comes.  
To the wise and powerful,  
star-led to Bethlehem, seeking a king,  
he comes, child of Mary,  
crowned with meekness, worthy of every gift.

Loving God, we pray for our world:  
particularly for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.  
We pray for: President Joe Biden following his Inauguration;  
our own Prime Minister Boris Johnson; and  
all leaders of the world - during this Year of 2021.  
Guide them with your light - to seek wisdom, justice, and peace.

Lord, come to your people:

**All: In your mercy set us free.**

Longed for, Christ comes.

To Anna and Simeon, whose days are lived in faithful expectation,  
He comes, a new life to the old,  
a living prophecy of hope.

We pray for all our parishes of Pulloxhill, Flitton and Silsoe;  
our Vicar Rev David Payne; our Ministry Team;  
and all the body of Christ worshipping with us today - wherever you are.

Loving God, we pray for our Church – whatever age we are -  
as we strive, in faith, to continue the example of Anna and Simeon.  
Unite us by your Spirit,  
and make us faithful witnesses to the hope we have in you.

Lord, come to your people:

**All: In your mercy set us free.**

Prayed for, Christ comes.

To men and women, girls and boys,  
crying out in pain and loneliness,  
He comes, at one with us,  
our Saviour, healer and friend.

Loving God, we pray for those whose lives are hard, painful, lonely, or a struggle at this time.

We pray in particular for all currently in hospital (both patients and NHS staff that administer to them); and we bring before you those who act as carers for loved ones at home. In their need, may they know your healing touch, reaching out to comfort, strengthen, and restore.

We thank you Loving God that your hand seems to be upon the rollout of the vaccines, and the hope that it brings. We pray all our elderly folk will receive their first jab in the coming weeks; and everyone will eventually be immunised for their protection.

Lord, come to your people:

*All:*     **In your mercy set us free.**

In Creation, Christ comes

Thank you Loving God for the beauty of your creation: blue sky and sunshine; a rainbow after rain; and snowdrops pushing through the snow, bringing the hope of Spring.

Lord, come to your people:

*All:*     **In your mercy set us free.**

Searched for, Longed for, and prayed for,

Loving God, you come to us now  
as you have come to your people in every age.

We thank you for all who have reflected the light of Christ.

Help us to follow their example  
and bring us with them to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

*All:*     **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

*All*   **Our Father, who in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; your kingdom come;  
your will be done; on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And 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 forever.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness**

**1.** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like,  
no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
at the break of the day.

**2.** Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
at the noon of the day.

**3.** Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome,  
your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
at the eve of the day.

**4.** Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
at the end of the day.

**Closing prayers**

The steadfast love of the lord never ceases,  
*All* **his mercies never come to an end;**  
they are new every morning;  
*All* **great is your faithfulness**  
*(Lamentations 3:22-23)*

For loving the world and knowing our names  
*All* **We thank you**  
For your strength that fills us  
And your love that heals us  
*All* **We praise you**  
For your presence here with us today  
And your hands that lead us into all our tomorrows  
*All* **We rejoice with you.**  
May you continue to bless us with your gift of the Holy Spirit.  
*(The Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon 2015)*

Go into the light and peace of Christ.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

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***Please join Rev David Payne for TEA at THREE***

*ZOOM time together every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm*

*A chance to catch up with others, laugh, moan, get things off your chest.*

*No agenda – just bring your own brew and a cake or equivalent (calories don't count on Sundays).*

*Contact Rev David on [vicar@3churches.uk](mailto:vicar@3churches.uk) for the ZOOM access code  
(It's the same code every week, so if you joined us last week you can use the same code this week)*