

# Holy Trinity

## Headington Quarry



All-Age Candlemas Service

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

## The Gathering

*Words of welcome*

### Hymn 113

*Please stand*

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own.

*A glory dawns...*

They go the temple, obeying the law,  
and offering two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

*A glory dawns...*

But Anna and Simeon recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

*A glory dawns...*

The old who have suffered and waited so long  
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

*A glory dawns...*

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,  
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

*A glory dawns...*

The candles invite us to praise and to pray  
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

*A glory dawns...*

Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)

## Gathering Prayer

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Lord Jesus, as we gather in your name  
to sing your praise,  
to hear your story,  
and to receive your gifts,  
fill us with your love,  
your peace and your joy.  
Amen.**

## Receiving God's Forgiveness

*A minister says*

Jesus said:  
'I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness  
but shall have the light of life.'  
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light  
and ask God's forgiveness.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:  
forgive our pride.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people:  
forgive our silence.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:  
forgive our self-centredness.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president says*

The God of all mercies forgive you your sins,  
and pour upon you the healing spirit  
of love, peace and gentleness.

**Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia Amen

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia Amen

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to the Spirit.**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia Amen

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

**Alleluia Amen**

Peruvian Liturgical Text, ed. John Ballantine (1945)

## The Prayer for the Day

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**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gospel Reading

*Please stand. We repeat the refrain.*



*The gospel is announced:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel reading: Luke 2. 22, 25-40

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area.

Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,  
because my eyes have seen your salvation.  
You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel...

*My name is Anna. I am a prophet.*

*Today I was in my corner by the entrance to the Holy Place, when I noticed a couple with a tiny baby. They were wending their way through the crowds in the Temple to make a sacrifice with a pair of pigeons.*

*They'd just entered the court of the women when Simeon overtook them. He lives in Jerusalem and often stops to talk with me when he comes into the Temple. He arrived in a hurry, slightly breathless, as though he'd run all the way. Simeon took the baby in his arms unceremoniously. The couple – the baby's parents – shrugged as though they were quite used to strange things happening around their baby. I couldn't hear what Simeon was saying, but his face was suffused with joy as though he was declaring something momentous.*

*He gave the baby back and said something more to the woman, who blanched at his words. They continued towards the Holy Place more slowly now, as though troubled by whatever Simeon had said to them.*

*And then it happened. The word of the Lord came to me, and I knew – more clearly than I had ever known anything before in my life – that this was what I was waiting for. This was who I had waiting for through eighty-four long years.*

*Here was love. Here was salvation. Here was the redemption of Israel.*

*'A baby?' I whispered to God.*

*'I told you it would come in a form you didn't expect.'*

*'Yes, but a baby – is that a good idea?'*

*'The very best.'*

*So I stumbled forward and took the baby clean out of his mother's arms. She sighed as though this baby had brought a lot of strangers unbidden into her life who had all acted as oddly as I was acting. Without thinking the words of praise I heard sung around me every day came to my lips: 'O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good: his steadfast love endures for ever.'*

*The child wriggled in my arms, opened his eyes and looked (or so it felt) right into my soul. And I knew that the love that had held me in the darkness when I needed it most was here now, cradled in my arms.*

*'This really wasn't what I was expecting,' I said to God.*

*'Thank you,' God replied. 'This is just the beginning. There's much more to come.'*

*'But will they know?' I asked, 'Will they know who he is?'*

*'Maybe you should tell them.'*

*So I did.*

*I told everyone that I could find – people who cared about the redemption of Jerusalem. I told them everything. And they smiled at me pityingly, as though I'd grown mad in my old age.*

*But I didn't care. I had held salvation in my arms. I had cradled eternal love and sung my own poor love song in return. And I'd only had to wait eighty-four years to do so.*

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favour was on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Talk**

Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

## Affirmation of Faith

*Please stand.*

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Please sit or kneel.*

*These responses may be used*

God of love

**Hear our prayer**

*We pray for those who are sick or in particular need:*

*Grace, Josie, Kitty Datta, Atmadeep Novo Datta, Bob Southgate,  
Benjie, Caroline Winwood, Enid Owens, Pam, Madeline Tarrant,  
Maureen, Helen Day, Kenneth Sanders, Owen Tollman, Elizabeth,  
Hunter Merritt, Tony Buttolph.*

*Those who have died recently:*

*Chris Hood, Mary Burr.*

*Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:*

*Francis Beckett, Betty Evans-Smith, James Webster.*

*And at the end*

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**



*Please stand*

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high has broken upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **Hymn 719**

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.

*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 grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!*

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.

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.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

### **Taking of the Bread and Wine Prayer**

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the gifts we bring before you  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

*Please remain standing or sit or kneel, as you are most comfortable*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator,  
loving and faithful,  
holy and strong.

You made us  
and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.  
You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**All Thy works shall praise Thy name,**  
**in earth and sky and sea;**  
**Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!**  
**God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Tune: 'Nicaea'

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

*Bells are rung*

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

*Bells are rung*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.  
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Please sit or kneel*

As our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*slowly*

Be - hold the Lamb of God, be - hold the Lamb of God. — He  
Be - hold the Lamb, the Lamb of God. He

takes a - way the sin, the sin of the world. —  
takes a - way the sin of the world.

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the stewards. We will form two lines to receive communion – the bread is distributed from the chancel step, and the wine is distributed from the Lady Chapel step. Please return to your pew via the north aisle. Stewards will be on hand to direct you.*

*If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread).*

*If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.*

### Hymn 396

Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us our servants  
our discharge in peace.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)  
based on Luke 2.29-32 (Nunc Dimittis, The Song of Simeon)

## Blessing of candles

*We light our candles as we pray:*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
King of the universe.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Your light shines on us  
and all peoples shall see your glory.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;  
he makes our darkness to be light.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,  
bearing witness to your truth.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

As we bear your light,  
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

At our baptisms, we were charged to shine as lights in the world. By the light of these candles, may we renew our commitment to take the light of Christ into the world through lives of integrity, compassion and service.

## Hymn 264

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.

Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the dead were wakened by his call,  
walk, walk in the light. *Refrain*

He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light;  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light. *Refrain*

We know his death was not the end,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light. *Refrain*

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the Father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light. *Refrain*

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light;  
his light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light. *Refrain*

Damian Lundy (1944-1996)

## **Sending out**

*We turn towards the font*

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:  
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

**Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;  
help us, like them, to trust your word.

**Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;  
may we be filled with the light of your love.

**Praise to Christ our light.**

May Christ the light of the world shine in our hearts,  
lighten our darkness,  
and guide our feet into the way of peace,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
**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.**

*Copyright: Common Worship & Times & Seasons © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006. Gospel reading © Common English Bible 2012. CCL no 234208.*

*Please do join us for refreshments at the back of church or in the warmer meeting room after the Service. Please take this booklet away with you, and recycle it when you have finished with it.*

*We no longer pass the collection plate around during the service, but you are welcome to use the collection plate at the back of church, or the contactless machine, if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church. If you would like to sign up to regular monthly giving, please visit [www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church](http://www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church) for more information*

## **Notices: February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Sunday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

8am Holy Communion

President: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

10am All-Age Parish Eucharist

President: Revd Canon Dr Margaret Whipp

Preacher: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

Organist: Andrew Patterson



## **Midweek Services**

Morning Prayer: 9am Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Lady Chapel.

Midweek Communion: Wednesdays at 10am

## **Sunday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>: Racial Justice Sunday**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with Forest Sunday School

## **A prayer for the vacancy:**

God of vision and hope,  
we thank you for all who have ministered here  
throughout the history of this church.  
In this time of vacancy,  
may we continue to grow in love,  
share in responsibility,  
and seek your vision for our future,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our shepherd and our guide.  
Amen.

**The Parish Office is closed** until further notice while Helen is on sick leave.

All notices must be emailed to Emily by **9am on Tuesday mornings** otherwise they will not be included in the service booklet. In Helen's absence volunteers will check the office email account, pay bills, print off booklets and materials and support Emily and Rob in the administration of the church. We are very grateful to all those who are helping at this time and ask the congregation to support them in any way they can.

**Advance notice of a Regular Giving Appeal as part of our parish fundraising.** A group led by our Treasurer, Richard Stoneman, has been meeting in recent months to look in detail at our church finances and at what we need to meet our obligations and to strengthen what we do as a church. With input from the Diocese we have decided to hold a **Regular Giving Appeal**. Around the start of Lent (on Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> March) there will be a focus on giving and faith and developing a vision for our ministry and work. On 9<sup>th</sup> March we will be visited by the Generous Giving Advisor for the Diocese, Joshua Townson, who will talk at the 10am service.

**Our Community Café** is now up and running: **9.30am-11.30am on Tuesday mornings**. All are welcome, and most especially families with young children, as the meeting room will be set up for tots to play.

**Julian Group.** The February meeting will be on **Friday 7th February at 2.30 pm at 6 Quarry Hollow, Headington. Please note the change of venue.** We meditate for half an hour on a passage provided by one of us and then discuss it before having a social time with tea/coffee and biscuits. New members are very welcome. Please contact me for further details: **Sheila Allcock 01865-769630**

### **HTHQ 175 Talking History**

The HTHQ175 committee have put together a programme of talks celebrating Holy Trinity's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year:

**Wednesday 5 February** Church and Eco-theology  
Dr Tom Crook & Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

**Tuesday 4 March** History of the Quarry  
Maurice East

**Wednesday 9 April** Racial Justice  
Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex

**Wednesday 7 May** Morris Dancing  
(speaker TBC)

**Wednesday 4 June** Our changing church  
Revd Canon Dr Margaret Whipp

All talks are in church. The evening begins with refreshments at 6.45pm, the talk beginning at 7pm, and discussions close at 7.45pm. All are welcome.

**This week's Eco Tips:** You may, or may not, have been able to take part in last weekend's Big Garden Bird Watch, but it's never too late to encourage garden birds. In built-up areas, feeding birds is one way of connecting with nature and wildlife. Besides, it is calming watching them nibble on our plants, take a dip in a bird bath and enjoy themselves in a garden pond. Start by providing bird feed, sunflower seeds, suet, mealworms, fresh fruit such as oranges. *Hilary Rollin, Eco Group*

**Eco Resources for Spring 2025:** For suggestions on information re Eco Matters, including reading material, links to Zoom sessions etc. go to: <https://www.hthq.uk/eco-church-resources>

**Pastoral care team** Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers on back page) or Janet Masters, Anne Tarassenko, or Ruth Wooldridge



# COMMUNITY CAFÉ



## Tuesdays

9:30am - 11:30am

at

**Holy Trinity Church, Headington,  
Quarry**

**Everyone Welcome for tea, coffee, biscuits and cake**

**An intergenerational space for parents/carers to spend time with their younger ones, meet up with people of all ages and enjoy a tea or coffee at the side.**

**Toys for pre-school age children and toddlers available in the meeting room.**



HTHQ

## **Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**

*An open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God's love to all.*

As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. Our church is open every day. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

### **Contact us**

**Vicar:** Vacancy

**Associate Priest:** Revd Prof Rob Gilbert  
[associatepriest@hthq.uk](mailto:associatepriest@hthq.uk)

**Curate:** Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex  
[curate@hthq.uk](mailto:curate@hthq.uk) 07979 931889

**Parish Office:** [office@hthq.uk](mailto:office@hthq.uk) 01865 762931

**Churchwardens:** [wardens@hthq.uk](mailto:wardens@hthq.uk)

Website: [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)

**Church postcode for emergencies:** OX3 8LQ