



Simeon announces the arrival of the Messiah

*“A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock
that makes them fall” (Isa 8.14)*

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

(Psalm 105:1-4)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
health and salvation:
Come ye who hear, brothers and sisters
draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so
wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so
gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen all that is needful
hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy
work, and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here
daily attend thee;
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me
adore Him!
All that hath life and breath come now
with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people
again:
Gladly for ay we adore Him.

(Joachim Neander, trans. C. Winkworth)

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God,
and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Pet 2:24-25)

The Lord's my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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God's Word

First Reading: Gen 12

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 79

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.

They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

We have become a taunt to our neighbours, mocked and derided by those around us.

How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire?

Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name!

For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.

Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

Second Reading: Luke 2:22-35

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!

Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die! Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbours the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age.

Amen!

Sermon: Simeon announces the arrival of the Messiah (Andrew Redbond)

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the
wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the
wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the
wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the
wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

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The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord, His servants praise Him!

Praise the name of God, the Lord!

Blessed be the name of Yahweh,

This time forth and evermore!

From the morning to the evening

Shall His holy name be praised.

He is high above the nations,

O'er the heav'ns, His glory raised.

Who is like the Lord of heaven,

He who is enthroned on high?

He who humbly looks from heaven

To observe the earth and sky?

Lifting up the poor and needy,

From the heap unto a throne;

Bringing joy unto the barren;

Praise be to the Lord alone!

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notes & Notices

Please diarise and pray for the following:

<i>THIS WEEK</i>		
Mon 19th Feb	Fellowship Group	Ref: Alan Finch
Tues 20th Feb	Food and Chat	Ref: Jenny
Thurs 22nd Feb	Prayer Meeting	At the church at 7.15pm
Sun 25th Feb	Morning Worship at 10am	Mike Matthews : John 3:1-12

<i>FURTHER AHEAD</i>		
Thu 29th Feb	Men's Ministry Meeting	Ref. Alan Steele

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV). CCLI Licence: 731672