

# CLARE COLLEGE CHAPEL



## A Service of Music and Readings for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (“Candlemas”)

Sunday 2 February 2025  
6.00 p.m.

*All stand as the candle-bearers enter the Chapel, and the light is passed from candle to candle.*

*During this, the Introit is sung from the Ante-Chapel*

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| <b>Introit</b> | O nata lux de lumine,<br>Jesu redemptor saeculi,<br>Dignare clemens supplicum<br>Laudes preces que sumere.<br>Qui carne quondam contegi<br>Dignatus es pro perditis,<br>Nos membra confer effici<br>Tui beati corporis. | <i>O Light born of Light,<br/>Jesus, redeemer of the world,<br/>with loving-kindness deign to receive<br/>suppliant praise and prayer.<br/>Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh<br/>for the sake of the lost,<br/>grant us to be members<br/>of thy blessed body.</i> |
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Words *Hymn at Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration*  
Music *Annabel Rooney (1973–)*

*The Choir and clergy enter*

### **Welcome & Bidding Prayer**

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this service, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

The candles that we hold remind us that the infant Christ, whom Simeon cradled in his arms, was the 'light to lighten the Gentiles', and came, in love, to be our light amid the darkness.

And so as we gather, we pray:

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of your faithful people  
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up this temple to your glory,  
may have the darkness of our lives dispelled,  
and so come to stand before you with great joy  
in that eternal city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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| <b>Hymn 52</b> | O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!<br>Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;<br>With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,<br>Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name! |
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Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Choir Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

All These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Words *J. S. B. Monsell (1811–75)*

Music *Was lebet, from the Rheinhardt MS 1754, arr. Graham Ross (1985–), Clare 2003*

*All sit*

**Reading**

Isaiah 60:1–3, 19–20

‘Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>19</sup> The sun will no more be your light by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.  
<sup>20</sup> Your sun will never set again,  
and your moon will wane no more;  
the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of sorrow will end.

**Anthem**

Senex puerum portabat,  
puer autem senem regebat.  
Alleluia.

*Simeon carried the young child,  
but the young child was the old man's king.  
Alleluia*

Words *Antiphon at First Vespers on the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Music *William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)*

**Reading** Luke 2: 22–40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’.

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.’

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

*All stand as the Choir stands*

**Nunc dimittis** (*sung by the choir*)

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.

Words *Luke 2: 29–32*

Music *in A, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

*All sit*

**Sermon** The Rev’d Dr Olga Fabrikant-Burke: *Encountering light*

**Anthem**      Deep midwinter, the dark centre of the year,  
Wake, O earth, awake.  
Out on the hills, a star appears,  
Wake, O earth, awake.  
Here lies the way for pilgrim Kings,  
Three Magi on an ancient path,  
Black hours begin their journeyings.  
Wake, O earth, awake.  
Their star has risen in our hearts,  
Empty thrones, abandoned fears,  
Out on the hills their journey starts,  
In dazzling darkness, God appears.

Words and Music *Judith Bingham (1952–)*

**Poem**            A Sonnet for Candlemas

They came, as called, according to the Law.  
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,  
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,  
For God was coming with them to His temple.  
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle  
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,  
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,  
Had made a killing on the two young doves.  
They come at last with us to Candlemas  
And keep the day the prophecies came true  
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,  
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.  
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,  
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

*Malcolm Guite (1957–)*

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| <b>Anthem</b> | <p>Maria wallt zum Heiligtum und bringt ihr<br/>Kindlein dar,<br/>das schaut der greise Simeon, wie ihm<br/>verheißen war.<br/>Da nahm er Jesum in den Arm und singt<br/>im Geiste froh:<br/>Nun fahr' ich hin mit Freud,<br/>dich, Heiland, sah ich heut,<br/>du Trost von Israel, das Licht der Welt.<br/>Hilf nun, du liebster Jesu Christ, dass wir<br/>zu jeder Frist<br/>an dir wie auch der Simeon all uns're<br/>Freude han<br/>und kommt die Zeit, sanft schlafen ein<br/>und also singen froh:<br/>Nun fahr' ich hin mit Freud,<br/>dich, Heiland, sah ich heut,<br/>du Trost von Israel, das Licht der Welt.</p> | <p><i>Mary made a pilgrimage to the temple,<br/>presenting her child,<br/>where the aged Simeon saw him, as he had been<br/>promised.<br/>He took Jesus in his arms and sang joyfully:<br/>Now I depart with gladness,<br/>for today I have seen you, Saviour,<br/>you comfort of Israel, light of the world.<br/>Help us now, dear Jesus Christ, that we may<br/>always<br/>delight in you, as did Simeon,<br/>and when our time comes gently to fall asleep,<br/>that we may also sing joyfully:<br/>Now I depart with gladness,<br/>for today I have seen you, Saviour,<br/>you comfort of Israel, light of the world.</i></p> |
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Words *Peter von Hagen (1569–1620)*  
Music *Johannes Eccard (1553–1611)*

*All remain seated or kneel*

**Prayers** Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:  
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:  
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:  
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:  
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:  
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,  
and showed them the infant King.  
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,  
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**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.**  
**And lead us not into temptation,**  
**But deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**  
**For ever and ever. Amen.**

*All stand*  
**Hymn 33**

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
Evermore and evermore.

