

+WEEKLY SERMON

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Have you let the King of Glory in?

Psalm 24.7

This Sunday we celebrate The Presentation of Christ in the Temple in Jerusalem, also known as Candlemas. The Gospel reading from Luke describes how Mary and Joseph fulfil what was required of the Jewish Law. They take the baby Jesus to the Temple for Mary to make the purification sacrifice following childbirth, and as a firstborn the child is dedicated to God.

They meet Simeon and Anna, older devout Jews, who recognise who this child really is. Simeon praises God saying, "I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32, NLT). Anna, who has been praying, worshipping and fasting in the Temple for almost all her adult life, cannot contain herself and goes telling everyone, who have been waiting for God to rescue His people, that this child will be their Saviour.

The light to the nations, in this vulnerable child, has arrived.

And in this Diocesan Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal, we must grasp hold of the light of Christ, be prayerful like Anna and Simeon and expectant of Christ being made known in people's lives and places that are covered by the darkness of this age.

What struck me though are the words from Psalm 24. As the baby Jesus entered through the Temple doors, it is into His own house of prayer, where the presence of God resides, Jesus enters His own dwelling place. The doors are opened, the gates are lifted to welcome God amongst His people. But like the child, who will leave with his mother to grow up healthy, strong, favoured by God and filled with wisdom. Jesus must leave the Temple, go back out of the doors into the world, before, 33 years later he makes his triumphant return to Jerusalem as King riding on a donkey.

Let us pray that we will let the King of Glory enter. Let us pray for the doors of our hearts be opened to the saving power of God and let Jesus in. Let us pray that the light of Christ will shine through the gates of our lives to overcome darkness. May we, and the nations receive Jesus into our hearts, may the King of Glory be found living in us.
"Open up...and let the King of Glory enter."

Rev Karen Herschell, Vicar of Balderstone, Mellor and Samesbury

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES