



The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist
HM Tower of London

Dear friends,



This Thursday, February 2nd, is Candlemas or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, marking the end of the season of Christmas and Epiphany. The scene is depicted in Rembrandt's painting of 1669 (in the National Museum of Stockholm) and was created in the year the painter died, at the age of 63. (Rembrandt had already painted more than one earlier depiction of the scene, perhaps the best-known being that painted in 1631, when he was 25. This painting is a much wider composition, showing all the characters, the wider busyness of the Temple and also its architecture.)

However, in the 1669 painting, shown here, the view is far more intimate and focused. It is likely to have been one of the last paintings the artist was working on at the end of his life, and remained unfinished. The focus is on the aged Simeon who has been waiting faithfully all his life for the Messiah, the hope of all Israel. Here, the Messiah is revealed as a tiny child in his arms. Simeon's hands are together in prayer and we sense that his eyesight is already dim. It is a beautiful moment of wonder, awe, fulfilment and hope for the future.

(1669 The National Museum of Stockholm)

Two reflections come to my mind. Firstly, I wonder what both the painting and Candlemas tell you about waiting and hope? Secondly, I wonder where you see God's promises being fulfilled today? With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

Services Details, 5th February 2023
Septuagesima Sunday

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

Psalm

112: 1-9.

Readings

Isaiah 58: 1-9a.

Matthew 5: 13-20.

Collect for Septuagesima Sunday

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear
the prayers of thy people; that we,
who are justly punished for our offences,
may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness,
for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus
Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God,
world without end. **Amen.**

Ash Wednesday

7pm, Wednesday 22nd February

Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower
All welcome to attend.

Poem of the week

Robert Frost was the most widely admired and highly honoured American poet of the 20th century. He is perhaps best known for the poem below, as well as his poem *The Gift Outright*, which was recited at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1961. *The Road Not Taken* is another much-loved poem. Frost liked to write about the outdoors and especially about rural life in New England in the early 20th century. He received four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry during his lifetime, as well as other awards, and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his literary work. I like this poem very much; its atmosphere speaks of winter and pilgrimage.

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.

His house is in the village though;

He will not see me stopping here

To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer

To stop without a farmhouse near

Between the woods and frozen lake

The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep

Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,

And I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost 1874-1963

Primroses by the Tower



A Space I Love - Tracy Borman in Jane Seymour's bedroom

A brand-new episode of the HRP Palaces podcast recorded at Hampton Court. You can listen to the podcast by following either of the links below.

<https://t.co/nE2v8Wa5u9>

<https://t.co/tAZeq33y20>



Jigsaw

The Shard at sunset – <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1c90828c6d42>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Madeleine, Dan, Derek, Colin, Ian, Patti and Florence.

RIP

Howard Broomby and Katja Hill.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,

that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen

With best wishes, Roger.



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