

MORNING WORSHIP ON THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS

31ST JANUARY 2021

To take part in our celebration of Candlemas you may wish to light a candle...please make sure that you have the candle and the means to light it near at hand before the service starts.

WELCOME

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

The Lord bless you.

HYMN: LIKE A CANDLE FLAME

Like a candle flame,
flick'ring small in our darkness.
Uncreated light
shines through infant eyes.

Chorus

God is with us, alleluia,
God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia,
come to save us,
alleluia!

Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?

Chorus

Yet His light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of His holy fire.

Chorus

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

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Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

You make our darkness to be light.

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

Blessed be God for ever.

Hold your lit candle as we say together a prayer of blessing...

**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 souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

Amen.

We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,
in the midst of your temple.
Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
God is the Lord who has shown us light.
Let us offer in his dwelling
an oblation with great gladness.

NUNC DIMITTIS

We listen to a plain song version of the Nunc Dimittis before saying the words of the canticle below.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**
A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Collect

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.

Gospel Reading

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.
Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

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. It's
written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will
be dedicated to the Lord." They offered a sacrifice in
keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair
of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

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, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was
very old. After she married, she lived with her husband
for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow.
She never left the temple area but worshipped God with
fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at
that very moment and began to praise God and to
speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward
to the redemption of Jerusalem.

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.

Sermon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jess Christ the Son of God:

**Though he was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness,
He humbled himself
And was obedient to death,
Even the death of a cross.
Therefore God has raised him on hight,**

**And given him the name that is above every name:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,
And every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each bidding there will be a time of silence as we bring our own prayers to God.

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

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.**

Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to 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.

You are invited to write a greeting of peace to others online using the comments box if you are watching live. Whilst we do this we will listen to a piece of music.

HYMN: IN A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE WALK IN DARKNESS

In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the daystar scattering our night.

Chorus

**For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.**

In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

Chorus

**Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.**

Chorus

*Robert A Willis (born 1947)
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FINAL RESPONSORY

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.

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.

THE BLESSING

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.
Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Following our morning service, you may wish to place your candle in your window and light it once it begins to get dark as a sign of solidarity with all those mourning loved ones, and as a sign of hope that God is with us, our light in dark times.