

Worship for Candlemas



Simeon in the Temple by Rembrandt

**Mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people**

Introduction and Welcome

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. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. Today 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.

All: Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple and acclaimed the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

The following responses are used as the church candles are lit

Minister: The Lord is the strength of my life

The Lord is my light and my salvation

Minister: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

All: A light which no darkness can quench

Hymn

(Tune Lewis Folk Melody)

Jesus calls us here to meet him, as through word and song and prayer
we affirm God's promised presence, where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise; praise the Son who calls us
friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him, Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story; tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory, came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other: vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender, neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger; join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter, in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table, rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven, finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body; share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners, hosted by our Lord and King.

Confession

Minister: Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Let us then bring our personal failures and weakness into his light, confessing our sins and asking for God's strength.

**All: 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,
in what we have done,
and in what we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
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.**

The minister will declare the words of forgiveness

The Candlemas Prayer

Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light.
Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus
was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth.
He was recognised by Simeon and Anna,
and welcomed as the promised Messiah.
May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus.
Grant that we may stand before you
with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love.
May we serve you all our days
and make your name known
as we worship you as our Lord.
So may we come by your grace
to eternal life . Amen.

Minister: O Lord open our lips
All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise
Minister: Let us worship the Lord
All: All praise to his name
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 for ever. Amen.

The Offering

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you

Hymn

Faithful vigil ended, watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised, all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it, perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance, sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted, all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory! watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants, our discharge in peace.

The Ministry of God's Word

The Collect Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*The Bible readings
can be followed in Partnership News*

Hymn

(Tune Lourdes)

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
The dark is behind us and Spring's on the way.
*A glory dawns in every dark place,
The light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
The child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
And offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there
The Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
But trust is complete at the end of their life.

For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
Her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.

O Spirit of God, with like courage inspire
Your everyday saints who face up to despair.

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
When Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas day.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

Hymn

(Tune Christ be our light)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.



Prayers

This response may be used:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy:

All: **hear our prayer.**
ending with

Leader: Merciful Father,

All: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Collect for the morning

(said together)

Almighty and everlasting Father, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger; order us in all our doings; and guide us to do always what is right in your eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

(Tune Austria)

Hail, thou once despisèd Jesus,
hail, thou Galilean King!
thou didst suffer to release us,
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou agonizing Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame;
by thy merits we find favour;
life is given through thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins were on thee laid;
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made:
all thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven;
peace is made 'twixt man and God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading;
there thou dost our place prepare,
ever for us interceding,
till in glory we appear.

Worship, honour, power, and blessing,
thou art worthy to receive;
loudest praises without ceasing
meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing our Saviour's merits,
help to chant Immanuel's praise.

THE BLESSING

Minister: Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and
serve the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**