

WORSHIP - CANDLEMAS - 31 JANUARY 2021

Today we have no physical services in our churches, but we still meet on Zoom at 11.30 - the link is on the website. This is the Order of Service that is based on the Zoom service.

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

Song - Like a candle flame - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmwdZyTGa_A

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 our homes 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.**

Dear friends: for forty days we have celebrated the Birth and the Epiphany 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 recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. As we worship, 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.

Anthem - When to the Temple Mary went - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC-RUCfsjFc>

Traditional words, Music: Johannes Eccard, 1553-1611

When to the Temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been reveal'd,
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God, he said;
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The hope of Israel, the light of men.
Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be,
As once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep, and with thee wake.

**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. Amen.**

The Candlemas Gospel - Luke 2.22-40 - is printed on the blue noticesheet

Address - Clive's sermon is on the website

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song - In a world where people walk in darkness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDTO6RgrZiQ>

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.

*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.*

2

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

3

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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Prayers of Intercession

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.
 Help us, Lord, in these dark and difficult times to lights in our communities, light to our country.
 We pray for all men and women of good will, as we fight the darkness, the corruption, the evil.
 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. We pray for the leaders of the world, for governments, local and national, for worldwide bodies, and international cooperation. For the just distribution of vaccines, for the battle against Covid in the first, and the third, world. For the other battles against the darkness of evil and dis-ease which we need to fight.
 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. We remember those from our community who are unwell, we pray for all in hospital and their families. We pray for our NHS staff, for those who are shattered, frightened, running on empty. Hold them in your love, Lord, and grant them the strength they need.
 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. The daily figures of Covid death are so many statistics, we know they are individuals, men and women known to you, loved by you, missed by people who love them. We remember them, praying for them, their families and friends.
 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. We don't know how we will worship this Easter - we do know that after crucifixion comes resurrection.

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

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.'

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

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.**

We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus 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.

Hymn - How shall I sing that Majesty - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOl-YWWpEXk>

We say the Nunc dimittis (Simeon's song of praise):

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.

Father here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

Help us, who have worshipped together, to be thankful for your gifts.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

Help us, who now extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

All now extinguish the candles.

In a normal year, we would now be standing near the place of baptism.

Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name.

Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Final music - Nunc dimittis, The Wells Service, *Malcolm Archer* -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmqsM5dDUDY>

Peter Barham, 28 January 2021 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.com