

Church Alive

Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

Epiphany 4 : CANDLEMAS

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



(For the Zoom service: *Welcome to Zoom Church Alive.*

You might like to have the following ready prepared with you for the service:

- *Drink and snack!*
- *Candle and matches/lighter*

We will meet at 11am and start the service at 11.05am. Please use MUTE on your computer at 11.05am for the service, especially wherever we are singing together, except in the sections where marked. If you'd like to say something at other times, please 'raise your hand' (you will find this in the Participants section) or type it in under 'chat' and it will appear on the screen.)

Today we explore the theme of Candlemas:

Candlemas is the day we turn direction – we turn from the Christmas story of the stable and the baby in the manger and begin to look ahead to Jesus' adult ministry, even to Lent, to Good Friday and Easter.

Opening Song: Praise is Rising <https://youtu.be/SzH6jRfcay>

Call to Worship:

Let us lay aside our daily routines and know God is with us now and always

The candles invite us to praise and to pray

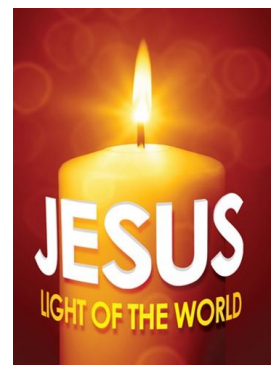
Lord Jesus, Light of the World, meet us as we gather today

As Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day

In some churches Candlemas is the Sunday when all the new candles for the year ahead are blessed

If you are able, and it is safe to do so, you might like to light a candle at this point as well and hold up your candle as we say our prayer together.

All: Lord, we light this candle,
to remind us that you are the light of the world.
As we gather together in spirit,
make our voices ready to sing your praise;
our hearts open to receive your love
and our minds alive to your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness:

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

For the times we fail to see your glory in others, especially the vulnerable and the little child:

Father, forgive us

For the times we are impatient; for doubting and giving up rather than trusting and seeking your will:
Father, forgive us

For the times we fail to notice signs of your presence, and forget your calling to be bearers of your light:
Father, forgive us.

Father, be our light in the darkness, for with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our sins*,
and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving:

In the Temple, as Simeon took the infant Jesus into his arms, he recognised he was holding the long-awaited Saviour of the world. Our hands can't touch or hold Jesus in person but in what ways, and in which places, do you feel that he is near? Give thanks for the different ways he comes into each of our lives.

Bible Reading - read by the Badcock family

Luke 2:22-40: Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace.

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him.

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother,

"This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying.

That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

On Zoom - Talk by Vicky

At Home - please use the Picture Reflection, Bible Study and All Age Activity on the separate sheet.

Song: Come Light of the World <https://youtu.be/rKpv53tGOV0>

Prayers *(On zoom - We will play a very short piece of music, during which you can add your prayers to the chat and then they will be included in the prayer time).*

Today we might pray for:

A commitment to pass on Christ's light to others so the truth of who he is will be continually revealed.

To be ever ready to meet Jesus in our lives and to follow his call to serve him.

For those for whom days are long and lonely and hope seems dim.

For all keyworkers and all affected by Covid 19.

Our friends and families

Those we know who are sick or who need our prayers at this time.

All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Song: Shine Jesus Shine <https://youtu.be/UCqhgEMixlk>

Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

**Lord, lead us on from the Crib to the Cross,
And let your light shine in us and through us;
Kindle an answering flame in those who share our lives,
That darkness may be driven back
And the whole world come to live in your light.
For you are the God in whom there is no darkness
You are the Saviour of the world.
To you be praise and glory for ever:
And the blessing...
Amen.**

The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

(On zoom - We share the peace with each other using sign language

Fellowship time – unmute. We will go around the group so that everyone has a chance to let us know how they are and any news they want to share.)