

# St.James' West End

## Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community for Candlemas 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Welcome to our time of singing and silence. Please feel free to sit quietly and listen or to join in as you feel most comfortable. We will be following a pattern based on the worship of the Taizé Community, one of whose aims has always been to make Christian worship as simple and uncluttered as possible. Please join in the words in bold.



Welcome

Opening words: Lord, gather all our thoughts, fill our hearts with your love. In you we find light in the deepest night. In you we find patience and help in time of need. Though we often do not understand, we will trust you, who holds us by the hand.

### The lighting of the Easter candle

Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world: whoever comes to me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

### Taizé Chant : Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines

**Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.**

During this chant if you have a candle and a cross at home (and it is safe to do so) you are invited to light the candle and place it near the cross.



Chant: Lord, have Mercy

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Let us pray to the Father through Christ our light and life.  
Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:  
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light ...

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Father, your Christ in the Temple brings judgement on the world:  
look in mercy on the nations who long for his justice ...

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sake became poor:  
look in mercy on all who are in need and those who suffer with him ...

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:  
look in mercy on the whole Church, which glories in your salvation ...

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Father, your Christ is the one destined for rejection:  
look in mercy on us as we turn towards his passion.

***Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

Almighty Father,  
you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,  
and showed them the infant King.  
Give us grace to trust your promises,  
and patience to wait for their fulfilment;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*A short time of silence.*

We join together in saying Psalm 122:-

- 1. I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'**
- 2. And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem;**
- 3. Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.**
- 4. Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**
- 5. For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.**
- 6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you.**
- 7. Peace be within your walls and tranquillity within your palaces.**
- 8. For my kindred and companion's sake, I will pray that peace be with you.**
- 9. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.**

***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***

Taizé Chant: Confitemini Domino

**Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus.  
Confitemini Domino. Alleluia.**  
(Give thanks to the Lord for He is good)

A reading from St Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2, 22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon<sup>□</sup> blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Followed by a homily

Then a short time of contemplation.

Taizé Chant: Stay with me

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.**

Taizé Chant : Bless the Lord

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Intercessions

Intercessions – during which we sing the Margaret Rizza chant as a refrain:-

**Veni, lumen cordium. Veni, Sancte Spiritus.**  
(Come, light of our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit, come)

*We pray for those who wait for God to rescue them from exile, imprisonment, despair or suffering.  
May they be granted hope and patience.*

**Veni, lumen cordium. Veni, Sancte Spiritus.**

*We pray for those who take the good news of God's saving purposes in history to others: for all  
preachers, pastors, missionaries and teachers.*

*May they be granted wisdom and courage.*

**Veni, lumen cordium. Veni, Sancte Spiritus.**

*We pray for those who struggle to see in the life of Jesus the fulfilment of God's purposes for the  
world. May they receive insight and understanding.*

**Veni, lumen cordium. Veni, Sancte Spiritus.**

*We pray for ourselves, as we seek to discern the part we are called to play in God's purposes. Give us  
ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to obey.*

**Veni, lumen cordium. Veni, Sancte Spiritus.**

*We spend a few moments remembering in our hearts any who need our prayers at this  
time.*

We join in saying the Lord's prayer – in the traditional form.

*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*



Taizé Chant: Nunc Dimittis

**Nunc dimittis servum tuam Domine, secundum verbum tuam in pace.**

( Let your servant now go in peace, O Lord, now go in peace according to your word)

Final prayer:-

Lord our God, as evening falls and the light disappears: receive our prayer...

God our Father, you look upon us with compassion: receive our prayer...

God our Father, you take upon yourself our burdens, fill us with your peace...

God our Father, in silence we are led to you: sustain us with your word...

God our Father, your love is all we need: welcome us and all those you have entrusted to us...

God our Father, kindle a new brightness in our night: may your light shine on us...

**Amen**

We join together in saying The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

