

Morning Prayer Presentation of Christ in the Temple 31 January 2021
Candlemas

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the peoples have seen your glory.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

Welcome and Introduction

Hymn Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

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. 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 recognized him as their Lord, as we today proclaim his glory. In our 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.

The Word of God

Psalm 24: 7-10

***R The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory.***

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." **R**

**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.**

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-5

A reading from the the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: A Song of the Covenant

I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

**Thus says God, who created the heavens,
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;
Who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it,
'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
'I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
'To bring out the captives from the dungeon,
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.
'I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other.'**

Isaiah 42.5-8a

**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.**

I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

Second Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

A reading from the gospel of Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons." 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 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, then as a widow to the age of eightyfour. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 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. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsory

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out his salvation from day to day.

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Gospel Cantic: The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

The parents of Jesus marvelled at what was said about him.

And Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

The parents of Jesus marvelled at what was said about him.
And Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Address

Music

The 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught
us, so we pray

**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.**

NOTICES

Candlemas Prayers

Let us pray

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**

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

A candle is lit...

1 In our hearts,
 in the lives of our families and friends,
 in our Church, O Christ
 let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

2 In worship and prayer throughout
 Southwark Diocese
 In the life and witness of the Parishes in
 Merton Deanery
 let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

3 In the prayerful hearts of your children in
 Merton Priory Team
 let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

4 In the streets around Christ Church, Holy Trinity and St John the Divine
 in Singlegate, Holy Trinity, Priory, Peham and Merton Abbey schools
 and in the hearts of all your people,
 let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

5 In the London Borough of Merton,
in the council chamber and civic centre
let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

6 Where doors have to be closed
and lights turned off,
in the places where we cannot meet together at this time
in Bliss, Coffee in the Wood and The Traf
let your light shine

Another candle is lit

7 In our homes and the places where we work
in the homes of friends and family, whom we cannot visit
let your light shine

Another candle is lit...

8 Among all the joys and deep sorrows of your children
In our shared anxiety and hope
In St George's hospital, The Nelson, St Helier and our GP surgeries
In the care that is unstintingly given
In our thanksgiving for the lives of all those who have died
And care for those who mourn
let your light shine

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
Hear our prayer.

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 rejoiced with faithful Simeon
and Anna.

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

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.

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Candlemas Liturgy Diocese of Southwark (adapted)