



Sunday Worship at Home 30th January 2022 Candlemas

Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world who takes our darkness away.

May we behold your power and glory.

Let us call to mind our sins:

For our failure to love as Christ loves us.

God our Father, every time we forget about you, we walk in the dark:

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Jesus the Son, every time we do something wrong, we turn out a light:

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy.

God the Holy Spirit. Every time we do wrong, we put out the flame you lit in our hearts:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect (Prayer for the day)

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.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22, 24-33, 36a, 38 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." An old woman was in the temple when she came, her name was Anna and she was 84 years old. As soon as she saw Jesus, she thanked God for him. An old man named Simeon joined them. God had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Saviour. As soon as he saw Jesus, he took him into his arms and said, "You can take me now Lord, for I am a happy man, I have seen your Saviour at last. The child will be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and will be the glory of your people Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Reflection on the Gospel. Today we celebrate Candlemas, the last day of the Christmas Season, so those of you who still have any decorations up, today is removal day!

I personally leave my Nativity set up until Candlemas as a reminder of the child of God who was born among us. It is also the day when Jesus was presented in the Temple, not to be confused with him being circumcised, that would have been done when he was about eight days old. In Jewish tradition, every first-born male child was deemed to belong to God, not his parents, as such he would have been taken to the Temple to be redeemed or purified. An optional fee of five shekels could be made, or the offering of a pair of turtle doves. If the family were poor, as in Mary and Joseph's case, an offering of two pigeons was acceptable. It shows the reverence and piety of Mary and Joseph that they took the time and trouble to make the journey to Jerusalem to offer their gift and present their Son to God in front of other families doing the same. Also in the Temple were Anna, a woman of steadfast prayer and Simeon a holy and righteous man who had waited 84 years to meet the Saviour, having been told by the Holy Spirit that he would indeed see him before he died. On seeing Mary and Joseph he knew immediately that Jesus was the one he had been waiting for. As he held him aloft in his hands, he said his famous prayer of praise, "You can take me now Lord – I am a happy man, I have seen the Saviour at last. This child will be a light to lighten the Gentiles and will be the glory of your people Israel". The word Gentile means all of us, anyone who is not a Jew, Jesus came to save us all and that is something to light a candle for in celebration, whether you do so in church or in the quietness of your home. Simeon lived his long life trusting in the promise of God every day; my prayer is that we too learn to trust in God every day in all things and live our life in the light of Christ in order to guide others to come to know him. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Be still in the presence of God to pray:

Jesus is the light of the world. We are his people called to reflect his light in the world to draw others to him. Help us to shine through the deeds we do, the care we show for others, and the prayers and supplications we make on behalf of the whole world, with all its joys and sorrows. We remember all those who are sick in body or mind, those who are lonely, distressed or grieving. We remember those who have died recently and those we have loved who have died, giving thanks for the lives we shared. We also remember to give thanks for our many blessings and not take them for granted.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven

The Blessing:

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will, and the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen**

Reverend Irene