

Compline : Night Prayer

For Candlemas

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Rembrandt: the presentation of Christ in the Temple

The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

From our cycle of prayer for this worshipping community: Tonight's Office Prayer is offered for

- *S. David's Ely, in Cardiff in the Llandaff Diocese*
- *and for the Llandaff Diocese*

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.

In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory.

We gather this night to celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching, redeeming and healing judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be.**

World without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

Song

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!.....

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

*Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell
STF 706*

Words of sorrow, love, mercy and forgiveness....

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."

Time of silence

Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world.'

Whoever follows me
shall never walk in darkness,
but shall have the light of life.'

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

Sonnet for Candlemas

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor
and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to his temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours,
enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
had made a killing
on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
and keep the day
the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them,
amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps his kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

Fr. Malcolm Guite

Psalmody

**Show me, O Lord,
the way that I should walk in**

from Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness
give ear to my supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgement with your servant,*
for in your sight
shall no one living be justified.

My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the time past;
I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you;*
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness
in the morning,
for in you I put my trust; *
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies,*
for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you,
for you are my God;*
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake,*
for your righteousness' sake,
bring me out of trouble.

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

**Show me, O Lord,
the way that I should walk in**

Scripture reading

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 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 turtledoves 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 eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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.

Luke 2: 22-40

from the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for the day, NRSV

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me,
Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend
my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye,

**Hide me under the shadow
of your wings.**

Intercession...

Bidding prayers are offered

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which 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 them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

Collect

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 lighting of candles

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 kindle these flames to your glory,
spreading the light of your Church in all the
places in which we gather this night,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
grant that the light of your Holy Spirit
may kindle in the temple of our bodies,
and so we may be counted worthy
to stand before you
in that eternal temple where
you live and reign,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Nunc Dimittis

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared
in the sight of every people.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

A light to reveal you to the nations:
and the glory of your people Israel.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

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.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Hymn

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us and spring's on the
way.

*A Glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fulness of grace.*

The kings have departed,
the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents
are left on their own.

A Glory dawns

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

A Glory dawns....

But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came
at the turn of the year.

A Glory dawns....

The old who have suffered
and waited so long
see hope for the world
as they welcome the young

A Glory dawns....

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter
on Candlemas Day.

A Glory dawns....

Elizabeth Cosnett

Final Responsory

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.**

Even as our flames have been dispersed this
Christmastide,
a flame divided, yet undimmed,
we have brought prayer and heart together to
offer the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Kindle in our hearts a blaze of hope and
gratitude**

We have rejoiced
with faithful Simeon and Anna.

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

We have greeted the Light of the world.

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

All now extinguish their candles.

In normal years we would gather at the font; the
turning point of the Church, the place of death and
re-birth,
Today we pause with water

We remember the waters of our own
baptisms, or we consider our commitment to
exploring the life of Christian faith.

**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.**

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in
safety.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen**

Here Christmastide ends.