



Candlemas

(The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple)

(People are given unlighted candles as they come into the church)

(A table is set up at the entrance of the church to place the Baptismal Candles. The Paschal Candle is lit.)

(The Choir proceeds to the Balcony)

Welcome and Announcements

Celebrant: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Response: **And also with you.**

(During the singing of "O Gracious Light" the Clergy led by the Crucifer process down the North Isle to the back of the church. Children fall in behind and join the procession to the back of the church for the blessing of the candles.)

(The servers proceed down the centre isle to light the congregants' candles.)

O Gracious Light

**O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his only Son.**

**Now sunset comes, but light shines forth; the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit' God who dwells in the eternal light.**

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life giving Lord;

Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

Blessings of Candles *(Candles are held high)*

Almighty and everlasting God who on this day didst present your only-begotten Son in the holy temple to be received in the arms of blessed Simeon; we humbly entreat you to bless, hallow and kindle with the light of your heavenly benediction these candles which we your servants desire to carry, lighted in honour of your holy name. May we be filled with the fire of your love, and made worthy to be present in the holy temple of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(After individual candles are lit the "Nunc Dimittis" is sung)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(The choir forms up behind the Crucifer for the procession up the centre aisle. The Celebrant says the following prayer.)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon and Anna your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith that we who bear these candles and lanterns may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the light that shines forever, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Procession

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

(During the procession to the Chancel all carry lighted candles. The choir carry the lanterns)

Processional Hymn: We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God,

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oh, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oh, we are marching in the light of God.

Continuing in Prayer

Let us pray: O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only begotten, may rejoice forever in our adorations as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Children proceed to the front pews)

Doxology

Celebrant:

Glory to God,

All:

whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

May God who from darkness, called us to his admirable light, pour out his blessing upon us that we may be rendered firm in faith, in hope, and in love. **Amen.**

May God make us witnesses of his truth to all people, as true Disciples of Christ a light that shines in the darkness. **Amen.**

As Simeon and Anna waited for and found Christ, the Light of the world, so may we find, at the end of our pathway with immense joy, Christ, the Light of the world. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend on us and remain with us forever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine

Dismissal

Leader

With an authority born of love, Christ sends us forth to live the healing we have received, walk in the wisdom we have been given, to be the Children of the Light, and delight in the awesome wonder of God. Jesus is our Light and Life. Anyone who loves God is known by God. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

We go as children of the Light. We go to make God's love known. Amen.

Leader

Jesus is the Light of the World!

All

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

(Please return extinguished candles to the sidespersons.)

(Music Postlude)

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son,
and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) pg 211
The Breaking of the Bread #6 (The Incarnation) pg 213

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei Jesus, Lamb of God

Communion Hymns: Here I am to Worship; Walk in the Light;
Refiner's fire; Christ Your Glory.
(*Candles are re-lit for the recessional hymn and extinguished after the dismissal.*)

Prayer after Communion (*Unison*)
God, for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon, who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that we in Christ may share in our eternal kingdom; for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis (*sung*)

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for the Presentation (*Unison*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to recognize him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(*Candles are extinguished*)

The Proclamation of the Word

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 (*drama*)

Children's Sermon — Rev Gail

Children's Song: Walk in the light

The Spirit lives to set us free,

Walk, walk in the light.

He binds us all in unity,

Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light of the

Lord.

Jesus promised life to all,

Walk, walk in the light.

The dead were wakened

by his call.

Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light of the Lord.

He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light,

To save the lost like you and me,

Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light of the Lord.

We know his death was not

the end.

Walk, walk in the light.

He gave His Spirit to be our

friend,

Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light of the Lord.

By Jesus' love our wounds
are healed.

Walk, walk in the light.

The Father's kindness

is revealed.

Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light,

Walk in the light of the Lord.

(*Children return to their families*)

Choir Anthem: Lord, Lettest Now Thy Servant depart in Peace.

Renewing Our Pledge

Brothers and sisters, on this feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple I invite you all to join with me in thanking the Lord for the gift of new life that the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon the Church. You, here present, who are enlisted in the service of reconciliation by your Baptism, renew the pledge to follow Jesus as Lord, until, through your evangelical witness, Jesus shines in the Church and illuminates the world.

Reader 1: We glorify you Father, and we bless you, because in Jesus, your Son you have given us the perfect image of the obedient servant: your will was his mission of service and love, the supreme law of the Kingdom and our Rule of life.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Reader 2: Thank you Father, for the gift of Jesus, Son of your handmaid, a servant obedient unto death. Today with joy we reconfirm our pledge of obedience to the Gospel, and to our Rule of Life.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Reader 3: We glorify you, Father, and we bless you because in Jesus Christ, our brother, you have given us the highest example of the gift of self; he, who was rich, became poor for us, he proclaimed as blessed the poor in spirit and opened to the small the treasury of the Kingdom.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Reader 4: Thank you, father, for the gift of Jesus, Son of man, mild, humble, poor, who had no place to lay his head. Today we reconfirm our pledge to live soberly and with austerity, to conquer the anxiety of possession with the joy of giving to use the goods of this world for the cause of the Gospel and human promotion.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Reader 5: We glorify you, father, and we bless you, because in Jesus, son of Mary his Mother you have given us the supreme model of consecrated love; he, Lamb without stain, lived loving you and others, died forgiving and opening the doors of the kingdom.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Reader 6: Thank you, father, for the gift of Jesus, bridegroom of your Church. Today with joy we affirm our pledge to keep faith, to live with undivided love for your glory.

Response: **Glory and praise to you, Lord.**

Leader: Look kindly, Lord, on these your sons and daughters firm in the faith and happy in hope. Let them be, through your grace, a reflection of your light, an instrument of your Spirit of peace, an extension among all people of the presence of Christ. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: All earth was dark

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Prayer over the Gifts (*unison*)

Almighty God, accept the joyful offering of your Church, and grant that your Son may shine in us as the light that lightens every nation. We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer for Children

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heaven and earth of your glory are full,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. (Repeat)
Blessed is he who comes, in the Name of the Lord, (Repeat)
Holy...**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.