

**A Liturgy for
Sunday Morning
Candlemas
during Lockdown**



Welcome to our Service this morning..

We meet this morning in many places
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The president greets the people
The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Introduction

The president introduces the day's liturgy

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 sing of his glory. In this eucharist, 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.

Prayer of Preparation

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God,
We bless you.

Object of the Magi's search, subject of an old man's song, fulfilment of the Baptist's preaching.

We bless you.

Mary's son, Joseph's son, God's only son,

We bless you.

Gladly, O God, we come together, here in this place, to seek your deeper presence. *Silence*

We bring before you our wounds and our weariness from the journey.

Together we look with hopeful expectation to find the star which signals your arrival.

Thankfully, we come forward to kneel and to receive the glory of your presence.

With our little gifts we are humbled before you.

And we find among the straw, in the misty breath of the animals, in the waters of the Jordan, in the wedding feast at Cana, in the temple with his family,

That you have come more humanly than we can imagine.

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world.

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

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

.All Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
Lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,
In earth and sky, you are there.
O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,

Soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet,
Your presence is around us, and we give you thanks.

But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation,
When we have not met but missed you in one another,
When we have not received but rejected you in the poor,
Forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly
Generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and
Earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory!

The Collect

Readings;

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

At the end:

Merciful Father

accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

As Jesus taught us at his last supper, let us celebrate as Christians together in this benefice and with our brothers and sisters around the world.

The Celebration

Let us lift up our hearts.

All We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord our God

All Living God, our loving parent, you cherish your creation, and we praise you,

With earth, air and fire in our element, as your children we praise you,

With our lips and with our lives, in all our diversity, each one made in your image, we praise you.

Because in Jesus you came to share our human life, our sorrow and our joy, we praise you.

Because your Spirit is at work today, encouraging, enabling, surprising us, we praise you.

Poor as we are, you give us hope, salt of the earth, you give us meaning and purpose, we praise you. Amen

The following passage is read;

Matthew 26: 26-30

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Candles are lit and the president says

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.

All Amen.

As our Saviour taught us so we pray...
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.

The president says

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth.

All Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

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

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

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

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

All 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.

All Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name.

All Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN:

Blessing;

As the Magi followed the star to the Christ-child
may we find you in unexpected places.

As John baptised you with water,
may you baptise us with the Spirit.

As you turned water into wine,
may we turn sorrow into joy.

As Anna and Simeon recognised you in the temple
may we recognise you in those we meet.

As Jesus grew and became strong and wise may we grow in wisdom and wonder.

And the blessing.....

Sending Out

Go in the light and peace of Christ

All Thanks be to God

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