

## Candlemas: a service of the word for baptism families

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### The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all  
*All* and also with you.

### HYMN 'The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free'

### Introduction

*The Minister welcomes the congregation to this special Candlemas service and reminds them that this is the feast on which the Church remembers the time that Mary and Joseph brought their new son to the Temple. Also today, this church welcomes those who were brought to God for baptism during the past year – and their families.*

As the community of the baptised we celebrate our place together in God's family, standing in the light of Christ. Let us pray:

### 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, as you were presented in the Temple. **Amen.**  
(adapted from CW Additional Collects)

### Reading

Luke 2: 22-40 (Good News version)

### Teaching

*The minister invites baptism families to talk to those around them and share:*

- *a 'top moment' that they've enjoyed with their child since baptism*
- *a difficult time with their child*
- *a time with their child when they've been aware of God's presence*

*The minister offers a brief prayer of thanks to God for his presence through all the highs and lows of family life.*

### HYMN 'Give me Oil in my Lamp'

## Affirmation of Faith

*All stand*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

*All* **This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

(Common Worship p148)

*The minister reminds the families that this is the faith into which their children were baptised, and invites them to remaining standing while the rest of the congregation sit, so that they can renew their commitment to Christian parenting.*

We welcome once more, with joy, these children baptised during the last year, and we ask you their parents (and godparents) as on the day of their baptism:

will you pray for your children, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**With the help of God, we will.**

(adapted from Common Worship p352)

*All stand. The minister invites the parents to make the sign of the cross on their child's forehead, and every member of the congregation to sign themselves with the cross, saying:*

*All* **Receive the sign of Christ's cross.**

*The minister address the whole congregation:*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified. Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life. **Amen.**

(adapted from Common Worship p 354)

## **Prayers**

Simeon called Jesus a light to bring light to the gentiles.  
We pray that the light of love, which shone from the life of your Son,  
may bring light to every nation.

Lord in your mercy  
*All* **Hear our prayer**

Anna worshipped faithfully in the Temple day by day.  
We pray that the life of your church may be centred on faithful worship,

Lord in your mercy  
*All* **Hear our prayer**

In the company of his parents Jesus grew, became strong, and was filled with wisdom.  
We pray that all families may be places of nurture, where young and old can grow together in wisdom, and in love.

Lord in your mercy  
*All* **Hear our prayer**

A sword would come to pierce the heart of Mary.  
We pray that all who are pierced by any kind of suffering may know your love and reach to you for strength.

Lord in your mercy  
*All* **Hear our prayer**

Your servant Simeon departed in peace.  
We ask your peace for all who have departed this life to begin a new one in the light of your presence.

Merciful Father,  
*All* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*All stand. The minister invites the baptism families to hold up their baptism candles, so that sidespeople can light them from the altar lights during the singing of the hymn. If numbers and space allow, the families could gather at the front of the church for the lighting of their candles.*

## **HYMN      'Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining'**

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and given us a place with the saints in light.

These baptised children have received the light of Christ, and so we say to them, as on the day of their baptism:

*All*    **Walk in this light all the days of your life.  
Shine as a light in the world  
To the glory of God the Father.**

(adapted from Common Worship p363)

## **HYMN      Repeat the chorus: 'Shine Jesus Shine'.**

## The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ  
*All*    **Thanks be to God.**