

**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**The Presentation of the Lord
Candlemas**

Sunday 7 February 2021



COVID-19
Services Online on our YouTube Channel

HYMN 223 – Glorious things of thee are spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows and thirsts assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
boasted pomp and empty show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

*John Newton (1725-1807) based on Isaiah 33:20-21 alt.
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Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil. For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GLORIA (*Said*)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

READING: The reading is taken from the Prophet Malachi
The Lord of heaven's armies says, "I will send my messenger.
He will prepare the way for me to come. Suddenly, the Lord
you are looking for will come to his Temple. The messenger
of the agreement, whom you want, will come." No one can
live through that time. No one can survive when he comes.
He will be like a purifying fire. He will be like laundry soap.
He will be like someone who heats and purifies silver.
He will purify the Levites. He will make them pure like gold
and silver. Then they will bring offerings to the Lord in the
right way. And he will accept the offerings from Judah and
Jerusalem. It will be as it was in the past.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 105 – Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the law of Moses taught about being made pure. They took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. It is written in the law of the Lord: "Give every firstborn male to the Lord." Mary and Joseph also went to offer a sacrifice, as the law of the Lord says: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons." A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man and very religious. He was waiting for the time when God would help Israel. The Holy Spirit was in him. The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord. The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do. Then Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God: "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said.

I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes. You prepared him before all people. He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see. He will bring honour to your people, the Israelites.” Jesus’ father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, “Many in Israel will fall and many will rise because of this child. He will be a sign from God that many people will not accept. The things they think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart sad, too.” Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was from the family of Phanuel in the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. She had once been married for seven years. Then her husband died and she lived alone. She was now 84 years old. Anna never left the Temple. She worshiped God by going without food and praying day and night. She was standing there at that time, thanking God. She talked about Jesus to all who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary finished doing everything that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. The little child began to grow up. He became stronger and wiser, and God’s blessings were with him.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Tuesday the 2nd February is Candlemass. It marks the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. This day was seen as the day that hinges between

Winter and Spring – it was seen as the day that we could predict the weather for remaining winter days. In France it is traditional to make crepes with a coin in the other hand which will bring you luck for the year. In America – it is Groundhog Day where if a groundhog can see his shadow (it is sunny) this means that the American's are in for some more winter before spring comes.

This halfway point between Winter and Spring marks a new hope as the light returns once again. As Christians, this the day when we celebrate Jesus being presented at Temple he is held by Simeon who states that Jesus is a light in the world for all. Traditionally, we use this time to bless all our candles – the candles on the altars, the candles for advent, the paschal candle for Easter and the candle for the Sanctuary Lamp to name but a few.

Candles are maybe not often used often as a light source anymore, but they are a way to see. How many times have you needed a light to see your path? I grew up in the Borders and had a torch to light my way home down streets without lighting or maybe you have been camping and needed the light to get to the facilities? Jesus also lights the way to the path of everlasting love of God.

Light can be used as a celebration. In our house last week, we had Jessica's birthday and she had lots of candles and is looking forward to helping me blow my candles out next week too! We are also huge fireworks fans but living in central Edinburgh, it is hard not to be. This year has been remarkably quiet however the joy of celebrations can still be

loud even if they are all on zoom. In joy, is where we celebrate with Jesus. Jesus gave his life for all of us, so that we could all be forgiven through his sacrifice. This joyful light is inside all of us to share his story and share the gift of his light.

Light can also be a source of comfort. This is Olaf – and for those of you who have been blessed with only hearing about the phenomenon, Olaf is the snowman for Disney's Frozen. Innes loves him when he is feeling sad. If you press his tummy, he lights up. He brings comfort.

If you remember earlier when I listed the candles that can be blessed, I mentioned the Sanctuary candle. To me, it is an important candle in the Church. This candle is lit to remind us of the presence of Jesus. It is lit because it is where the bread and the wine that has been blessed is kept. In a previous Church, I attended it was the first thing you saw when you walked into the building and for me it felt that Jesus was there and I could sit and chat. It also made me less alone even when I sometimes was the only person in the building. I could also feel it glaring at me, if I knew that maybe I done something wrong or if I hadn't done all I should that week.

I don't know how you might sense Jesus' presence around you or maybe you have never thought about it. Jesus sometimes gets left out of busy lives as we work hard in jobs, at school or in housework and as we work out how to see friends and family even if that is only on a computer screen. At this moment we can be as one light and take it to

share. This week take a moment to find a light – a candle, a torch, a lamp and to light it. Even apart we can share the light of Christ and let that light shine out into the world and to show his love, compassion joy and to help us follow his path.

Amen.

Caroline Daye

BLESSING OF CANDLES

O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God, you created all things out of nothing, and by your command caused the labour of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. You commanded your servant Moses to keep lamps continually burning before you. Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of the true light who enlightens everyone coming into the world. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain to the Light that never fades away. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on 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.

INTERCESSIONS

We pray to you Lord, creator of the whole world, we give you thanks for our beautiful countries and seas. We are always amazed at your incredible creations. We are sorry we do not always look after it and we promise to shine a light on areas which are being destroyed by us not looking after this wonderful gift. Give us courage to fight for our planet.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, we pray for leaders across the world, let them know your love and help them to keep their citizens safe. For those here in Britain at our Parliaments in Westminster, for those in Wales and Northern Ireland and those here in Edinburgh at Holyrood. Fill them with your spirit to lead us, protect us and support all of us. We know they have difficult decisions to make and we pray that you will give them courage to make the right ones.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Colinton and for all the people we know who are struggling through this pandemic and lockdown. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again and being able to go places with friends and family together.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Today as we remember you being presented in the Temple to be the light in our darkness, we pray for your Church to continue on as that light, sharing your Gospel with the whole world so they may come to know you. We pray for Churches across the world as they come to praise your holy name together, even if they are apart. Here, we pray for Bishop John and the Diocese of Edinburgh and for Nicki, Bob and Margaret who led us all to be closer to you, Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those are in need of our prayers and for those who have asked for our prayers. Be with them at this time and let them feel your everlasting love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are no longer here. We pray for those who they have left behind and we ask that you comfort them with your presence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you are always with us.

You are with us in the day and in the night.

Help us to remember that you love us and are with us in everything today.

Amen.

Caroline Daye and our young people

OFFERTORY HYMN 479 – Lord, the light of you love is shining

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick (b.1950) ©1987 Make Way Music
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Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and
at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens
and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in
a wonderful exchange. He made his home among us that
we might for ever dwell in you. Through your Holy Spirit you
call us to new birth in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose we offer you our
praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company
of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:-

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, St Cuthbert, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

A PRAYER FOR US TO PRAY AT HOME:

**God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour,
who feeds his people and gives them eternal life.**

**Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine,
we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence,**

the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION

Father, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.