



Worship for Sunday 31st January 2021

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to service as we celebrate the feast of Candlemas. Welcome if you are joining us on Zoom or following the service at home, it is lovely to have you with us as we gather to worship our generous God. Let us take a moment to still ourselves in the presence of God so that we are ready for worship this morning.

A call to worship

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Jesus is the light of the world. Come, let us worship. **Come, let us worship**
Jesus is the light of our lives. Come, let us worship. **Come, let us worship**

Hymn: Angles from the realms of glory

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.

Prayers of penitence

Light shows up things that have been forgotten, lost, or hidden. As we come into Jesus' presence, his light reminds us of all the good things we have forgotten to do and all the things we have hidden away. But if we say sorry, then we can walk in the light. So, let's take a few moments now to say sorry to God. *Silence*

For all the times we have ignored people in need, Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices, Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

For all the times we have forgotten your love, Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The collect for Candlemas

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, your God, and our God. **Amen**

Reading: Malachi 3. 1-5

Hymn: Love divine

Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

Talk

I have made a video of the talk.

Creed

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

Hymn: Purify my heart

Prayers

I have made a video of the prayers.

In the knowledge that God is here present with us, let us pray. *Silence.*

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for our Archbishops Justin and Stephen, Bishops Rachel, and Robert, for all church leaders and congregations. May our church communities shine with goodness and love, humility, and truth, generosity and grace and may our lives be upright and holy as they shine out your love and light. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the gifts of discernment and integrity among all those who govern, advise and lead. Clear away all self-centred ambition to free our leaders to serve. We pray for all people caught up in situations of violence and war, political and civil unrest, poverty, and famine and who are dealing with the effects of natural disasters, bring into their lives, peace, comfort, and hope. We give thanks for the many charities around the world who work to improve the lives of others and ask that you bless them with the resources they need. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that every home in this community may be enfolded in your love, brighten by your joy, and calmed by your unbroken peace. We pray for our local schools, playgroups and nurseries for staff, children, and parents, for those who work in the NHS and care homes, for the police and fire service, for funeral directors and for all those who work in food distribution. We continue our prayers for all those affected by the Coronavirus, especially those who are struggling for whatever reason, may they find the strength, hope, and love they need. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We call to mind those whose eyes are wet with tears or tense with pain. Help them to sense your reassuring love which can help bring us through the darkest valleys. We bring before you all who are suffering whether in body, mind, or spirit and in a moment of silence we name them before you. *Silence.* Surround them with your healing and love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have recently died and those who are heartbroken at their passing. Surround with your love, comfort, and hope all those who are grieving at this time. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of stillness, we offer our own prayers to God. *Silence.* Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

The peace

God makes peace within us – **let us claim it.**

God makes peace between us – **let us share it.**
The peace of the Lord be with you. **and also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Hymn: Oh Lord my God

The blessing of the Candles for the year

Lord God, who came as light to the whole world, bless these candles and all those we will use throughout the year that they might shine with your light, in our Church, in our homes, in our worship, leading us towards you, and reminding everyone of your love. **Amen**

We go out

To a troubled world. **Peace from Christ.**
To a searching world. **love from Christ.**
To a waiting world. **Hope from Christ.**

May the light of God's love shine in your home and shine in your heart, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always. **Amen**

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

Common Worship: Services and prayers for the Church of England and New Patterns for Worship material from which is included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002 and Three hundred intercessions on Biblical Themes by Susan Sayers 2000 Kevin Mayhew.