

St John the Evangelist, Kingston

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas

Welcome to anyone who is new to St John's.

Hymn

Dear Father God, we gather here
In this great house of prayer.
We come just as we are to you
as one who knows us through and through,
and keeps us in your care,
in love beyond compare.

Dear Father God, we praise the name
of Jesus Christ your Son,
The light for all the nations shines,
we see how your salvation binds
all people into one,
and brings your children home.

Dear Father God, we sing your praise
for promises come true.
As young and old our voices raise
and joyfully proclaim, "God's ways
are heaven breaking through
to make the earth anew.

**So Father God, may each of us
go out into the night
to share the joy you give to us,
to praise, to sing, to teach, to bless
all people with your light,
and make the darkness bright.**

The Greeting

Minister In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minister The Lord be with you
All And also with you.

Voice Jesus is the light of the world. Come let us worship.
All Come let us worship.

Voice Jesus is light in our lives. Come, let us worship.
All Come, let us worship.

Introduction

We say sorry

Minister Light shows up things that have been forgotten or 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 wrong 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.

Voice For all the times we have ignored people in need.

Lord, have mercy,

All Lord, have mercy.

Voice For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices.

Christ, have mercy,

All Christ, have mercy.

Voice For all the times we have forgotten your love.

Lord, have mercy,

All Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Hymn: Like a candle flame

**1. Like a candle flame,
Flickering small in our darkness,
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes.
*God is with us, Alleluia,
Come to save us, Alleluia!***

**2. Stars and angels sing,
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?**

3. Yet his light shall shine

**From our lives, Spirits blazing,
as we touch the flame
Of his holy fire.**

***God is with us, Alleluia,
Come to save us, Alleluia!***

Reading: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Thanks be to God.

Talk

Prayers

Voice That our church may be a place full of light,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice That our homes may be places full of love,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice That our schools, places of work and places of fun may be
places of joy,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice: That those who are in pain or sadness may discover hope,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice That our community and our nation may be led in
righteousness
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice That men and women and children in our world may live their
lives in peace,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Voice That each of us might walk in your light every day,
We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

The Peace

Minister God makes peace within us – let us claim it.
God makes peace between us – let us share it.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Most people here greet each other with a handshake.

Offertory Hymn – the bread and wine are brought to the altar.
*Everyone is invited to bring their harvest gifts and lay them around
the altar.*

- 1. Longing for Light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

***Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.***

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.**

- 4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.**

- 5. Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your Kingdom come.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord is here
All: His Spirit is with us.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**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.**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.' After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with Mary, John the Evangelist and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and forever.

Amen.

We sit or kneel. There may be a period of silence.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread:

Minister	We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All	Though we are many, we are one body, Because we all share in one bread.

The Giving of Communion:

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion:

Everyone is welcome to come forward for this special time in the service to receive communion or a blessing. We gather around the altar in a circle. The sidespeople will invite you forward.

The Post Communion Prayer:

**Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices. At the end of the notices our candles are lit and we turn to face the crib.

Candlemas Prayer:

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. **Amen.**

Candlemas Procession to the font during the hymn: Lord, the light of your love is shining

**1. 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.***

**2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood may I enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**3. 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.**

We gather around the font and are sprinkled with water to remind us of our baptism.

Final Responses

Father, here ends our celebration of our Saviour, Jesus', birth.

Help us to live his life that has no end.

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

Help us to share his light with others.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

Help us to get ready for lent.

Here we bless one another in your name.

Help us to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STAY FOR REFRESHMENTS
AFTER THE SERVICE