

# Candlemas Service of Light

## Welcome

The Lord is my light and my salvation: **All: My God shall make my darkness to be bright.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

**All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you **All: And also with you.**

## A Reading from the Gospel of John

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## Carol: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
He who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth!  
*Come and worship Christ the new-born King*  
*Come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King!*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light: *Chorus*

Sages leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar,  
Seek the great desire of nations  
Ye have seen his Natal Star! *Chorus*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord descending,  
In His temple shall appear! *Chorus*

## Carol: Come thou long-expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,



## A Reading from the book of Malachi

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> 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,<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.<sup>34</sup> 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<sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> 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,<sup>37</sup> 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.<sup>38</sup> 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.

### **Prayers**

**All: 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 Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

## **A short Reflection**

### **Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known  
will you let my life be grown, in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **Hymn: Walk in the Light**

The Spirit lives to set us free, walk, walk in the light.  
He binds us all in unity, walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light, walk in the light,  
walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord!*

Jesus promised life to all, walk, walk in the light.  
The dead were wakened by his call, walk, walk in the light.

*Chorus*

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed, walk, walk in the light.  
The Father's kindness is revealed, walk, walk in the light.

*Chorus*

The Spirit lives in you and me, walk, walk in the light.  
His light will shine for all to see, walk, walk in the light.

*Chorus*

