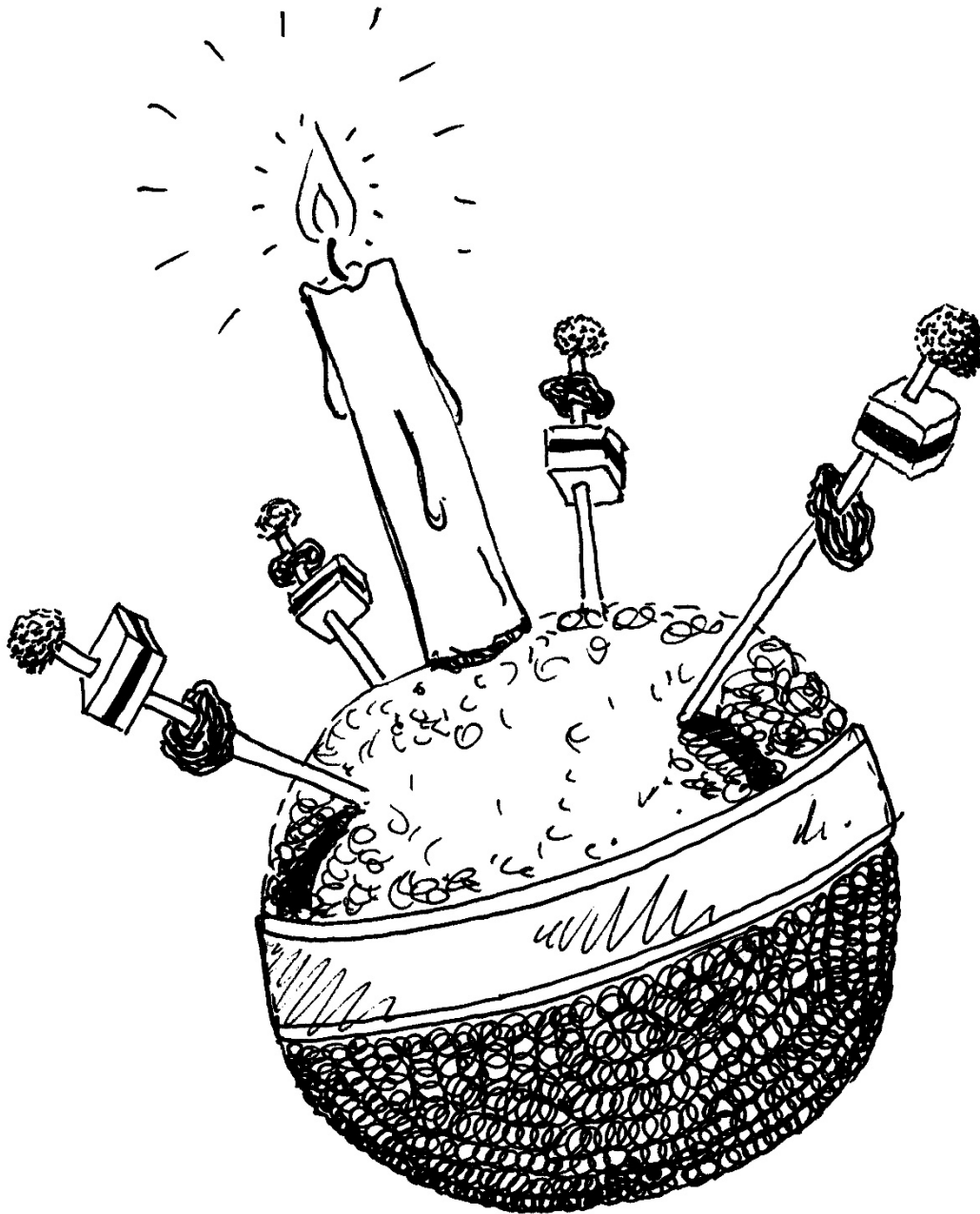


Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome
Diocese of Bath and Wells



Candlemas Christingle

The Welcome

Opening Hymn

(stand)

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 I may 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...

(Graham Kendrick b1950)

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All And also with you.

Dear Friends: forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, the light to lighten all people, as today we sing of his glory.

Opening Prayer

As we gather in your presence:
Shine your light upon us.

As we live in hope:
Shine your light upon us.

As we work for peace:
Shine your light upon us.

As we look for your presence in the world:
Shine your light upon us.

Talk
(sit)

Confession

Lord, your word has been fulfilled;
forgive our failure to hear.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, our eyes have seen your salvation;
forgive our failure to see.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you are the light for the nations;
forgive our failure to shine.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Sing
(remain seated as Christingles are lit)

Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies away, that never dies away.
Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies away, that never dies away.... *(repeat)*

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *us our* sins
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ

Silence is kept

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Gospel Reading

(all stand and turn to face the centre of the church)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
All Glory to you, O Lord.

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 (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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk
(sit)

Sing
(stand)

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.

(Bernadette Farrell)

Prayers of Intercession
(sit or kneel)

The prayers end with:

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Peace

(stand)

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

(which could be a smile, a handshake, a hug...)

Hymn

1. Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

2. All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

3. This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

4. Christ, your people's glory!
watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

(Timothy Dudley Smith)

Taking of Bread and Wine

Today we all share a loaf of bread. The loaf is blessed and divided, some will then be consecrated for those who are confirmed or who receive Holy Communion in other churches. Everyone else is invited to share the blessed bread.

Loving God,
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

(remain standing)

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**All You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sit or kneel)*

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.
Amen.**

Giving of Communion

All are invited to come forward. If you are receiving Holy Communion and you are not yet ready or comfortable to share the common cup, please return to your seats after receiving the consecrated bread. Our understanding is that the sacrament is received in full in the bread. If you are not confirmed and would like to receive a blessing, please carry your service book with you to avoid confusion, you will be offered a piece of blessed bread.

Prayer after Communion

**All Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Sing

(Stand as candles are lit again)

1.When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

2.The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own. *Refrain*

3.They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor. *Refrain*

4. But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year. *Refrain*

5. They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire. *Refrain*

6. They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life. *Refrain*

7. For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross. *Refrain*

8. They pass through temptation, through failure, through death.
When darkness descends, they plod onward in faith. *Refrain*

9. Like Anna, like Simeon, may we have trust,
our eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last. *Refrain*

10. The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day. *Refrain*

(Elizabeth Cosnett)

All turn to face the back of the church

We stand near the place of new birth
All Let us shine with the light of your love.
We turn from the crib to the cross.
All Let us shine with the light of your love.
We go to carry his light.
All Let us shine with the light of your love

Blessing

Christ the Son of God,
born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will....

Let us go in the light and peace of Christ
All Thanks be to God

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