

Candlemas 31Jan2021



Today is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It is also called the feast of Candlemas. We pray asking God's blessing on us all, that we might walk in the light of God's love all our lives. **Amen.**

Light

I light a candle to say thank you for the sun, which brightens our days and shows us all the beauty of your world.

We thank God and say: **Thank you for the light.**

I light a candle to say thank you for the moon and stars which light up the night sky and show travellers the way.

We thank God and say: **Thank you for the light.**

I light a candle to say thank you for Jesus, the Light of the World, who came to show us the way to God our Father.

We thank God and say: **Thank you for the light.**

Darkness

Some people in our world today don't have a lot of light in their lives. Perhaps they experience the darkness of bullying, of hunger, of loneliness, or of violence. We bring to mind any part of our own lives that feel dark or lonely.

Blow out one candle

We think of people who have dark and sad times in their lives.

Blow out one candle

We remember how our world sometimes judges people, discriminates or ignores people, leaving them alone and in the dark.

Blow out final candle

Without the love of God, we can too easily live in darkness.

**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**

God forgives you, forgive yourself, forgive others and live in peace. **Amen.**

We relight the candles as a sign of our forgiveness and intent to lead a good life.

The 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.

Reading **Luke 2 verses 22-40**

Creed

We believe in God the Father

Creator of the Sun and Moon, the day and night.

**We believe in Jesus Light of the world,
son of God and example for our lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who moves throughout the world
Bringing light to those who live in darkness.**

We believe in the church, as a beacon of light, love and hope in our world.

We believe that all who are baptised carry the light of God in all they say and do. We believe, in light, love and hope, in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe. Amen.

Prayers concluding with the Lord's Prayer

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.

The Peace

Give me peace, O Lord, I pray, in my work and in my play.
And inside my heart and mind, Lord, give me peace.

To the world give peace, I pray, Let all quarrels cease to-day.
May we spread your light and love, Lord, give us peace.

Blessing of the candles for the year ahead.

God our Father, Source of all light, today you revealed to Simeon
Your light of revelation to the nations. Bless + these candles and make them
holy. May we who carry them to praise your glory walk in the path of goodness
and come to the light that shines forever. Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

Responsive Prayer

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.
Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna. **Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the Light of the world. **Help us, who now hold these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Blessing

Star-maker God, Lightener of the world,
bless us and warm us into light and loving.
Bring us to the light of Jesus all the length and breadth
of our nights and days. **Amen**

"Candlemas"

Denise Levertov

With certitude
Simeon opened
ancient arms
to infant light.
Decades
before the cross, the tomb
and the new life,
he knew
new life.
What depth
of faith he drew on,
turning illumined
towards deep light.
As the dark presses in and the days get even shorter, I hope I "turn illumined
towards deep night."

This poem can be found in Denise Levertov's book "Breathing the Water."