

Candlemas Communion on Zoom 31Jan2021

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **a light no darkness can quench.**

The darkness is not dark to you, **the night is as bright as the day.**

Let your light scatter the darkness **and fill your Church with your glory.**

May the light and peace of 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. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature. **Alleluia**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel. **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the Light of the world**

Hymn Benedictus Tune: Bunessan 'Morning has broken'

Blessed be God
For he has redeemed us,
Given us a Saviour,
David's great Son,
Tell out his praise.
Sing in thanksgiving,

From all our foes,
Our freedom is won.

To those in darkness
God's sun has risen,
His tender mercy
Bringing us light,
Taking away
The dread of death's shadow,
Guiding us onward
Out of the night.

Praise to the Father,
praise to the Spirit,
Praise to the Son,
Christ Jesus our Lord,
From the beginning,
Now and for ever
May you be worshipped,
Praised and adored.

*Taken from 'Hay & Stardust'. Resources for Christmas to Candlemas
Ruth Burgess – Wild Goose Publications The Iona Community*

Confession and Absolution

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore
you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through 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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2.22-40.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Address

Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *cf Philippians 2.6-11*

Prayers

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

And at the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Peace

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come. The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Prayer at the preparation of the table

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
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 Eucharist

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us you made the world,
and the heavens in which through Christ we have a place. All that is
spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all
who are loving point to you. We praise you for coming to earth in Jesus,
for his life that informs our living, for his compassion which changes our
hearts, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life
breathing forgiveness, we praise and worship him.

**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.**

And now we fall silent and remember him who came, because words
weren't enough. Merciful God, send now in kindness your Holy Spirit
on this bread and wine, and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let
the same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this
world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.
Among friends, gathered around a table Jesus took bread, broke it and
said "This is my body broken for you, take eat to remember me"
Later he took a cup of wine and said "This is my blood shed for you
drink it, all of you, to remember me."
This is the table where God intends us to be nourished, this is the time
Christ can make us new.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because one day we will all share together in one bread again.**

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*inspired by Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*)

Our God knows you by name. Our God knows what you fear. For you are fearfully and wonderfully made. In your name, God's works are revealed again to us. Jesus become the bread and wine of our new life, to feed us spiritually to give us courage and strength to meet the day. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Communion is received.

Loving God, be with me and all your people in these days when we cannot gather in person and help us to hope in that great day when we will all gather at your heavenly banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*from the Methodist Church website*)

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**

Hymn

Shine Jesus Shine

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 upon us
Shine on me, shine on me,

Refrain

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.

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Final Responsory

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 offered the Church's sacrifice of praise. **Help us, who have received the words of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

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 extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion. **Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**