

Plurality of Stainton with Hilton and Brookfield

31st January 2021 - CANDLEMAS

The presentation of Christ in the Temple.

WELCOME to worship at home

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



We often talk about Jesus as the light of the world. Candles in church remind us of that light shining in the darkness able to lighten the dark corners of our lives.

COLLECT

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

The book of the prophet Malachi. ch3.1-5

Thus says the LORD God: 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. 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.

The letter to the Hebrews. ch2.14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ch2.22-40

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 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.

PRAYERS

Almighty God, loving Father, we bring to you our concerns and intercessions for your world. Like Simeon and Anna in the temple help us to see in Jesus your promise of salvation... **Lord hear us.**

Lord God, throughout today in every part of your world countless people will worship you, trusting their lives to you. We cannot know them, but all are known to you and we pray for them.

Especially we pray for those who worship at risk of their lives, we ask that you will uphold them in their danger and keep them faithful. ...

Lord hear us.

We remember all who are called to lead your people. We pray for the leaders of our Church; Archbishops Justin and Stephen, Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Amanda, and Area Dean Clay, as they grapple with the call of faith and the challenges of present society. In this parish group we pray for our priest Claire as she meets each difficulty thrown her way by the Covid epidemic locally.

May they and we find the way to witness and show what your love means for all people.

Lord hear us.

Jesus was called the Prince of Peace: so we pray that peace and justice may become urgent and real in our time and lives. May those who exercise power in every land be ruled not by avarice and lust for power but by a hunger for peace. Jesus calls us individually to contribute to peace in our homes, in our community and in our world ; help us to do it wholeheartedly.

Lord hear us.

Throughout his life Jesus was with people in their joy and strength and in their weakness and fear. We thank you for the experiences of your

nearness in our own lives and we pray that all our neighbours and friends, all those with whom we work or play, those who we like and who like us, those who we dislike and who dislike us, that all may know your love and presence.

Lord hear us.

In the quietness of our hearts and minds we pray for those known to us who need you Lord - in their illness, their loneliness, their agony of mind, the deep darkness of depression...all who are searching for meaning in life. Let them see your light and know your love. **Lord hear us.**

We pray for all who work to tend the needy; doctors, nurses, carers, social workers, all the unsung front line and support staff and we pray for those who help to shape lives – parents, teachers, youth workers. **Lord hear us.**

Simeon saw Jesus as a light for revelation. We believe that he is still the light of our world. So we remember those who have passed into the full light of your heavenly kingdom. Lord we thank you for their lives and pray that those who mourn them may find comfort, assurance and peace. **Lord hear us.**

As we begin a new week we ask that you will help us to trust in the promise of life and hope that Jesus brings and make us willing to respond to whatever may happen, expected or unexpected, secure in the salvation that our Lord offers us. **Amen.**

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CANDLEMAS DAY in pre-Christian days was called the 'Feast of lights' or ' the quickening of the year' as it marked the mid-point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox and the days were getting noticeably longer as Winter gave way to Spring. . It was an important celebration..

For Christians it became a reminder that before Jesus came to earth it was as if everyone was in the dark. In Christianity we often talk about Jesus as the 'light of the world' and we light candles in our churches to remind us of Christ's light and his presence with us. Candlemas got its name in times past from the custom of bringing all candles that were to be used in church for the coming year into church to be blessed. There was even the superstitious belief that the burning of blessed candles could give protection against plague, and other illness and even famine.

WEATHER PROVERBS

If Candlemas day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight,

If Candlemas day brings cloud and rain,
Winter wont come again.

If Candlemas be dry and fair,
The half o the winter's to come and mair,

If Candlemas be wet and foul,
The half o the winter's gone at Yule.

CANDLEMAS SUPERSTITIONS

. A candle which drips on one side when carried into church on Candlemas Day denotes a death during the year of someone dear.

Snowdrops are unlucky if brought into the house before Candlemas