



*The Light of the World*  
*William Holman Hunt*

## **Worship for Candlemas**

'Behold

I stand at the door  
and knock.  
If any man  
hear my voice  
and open the door  
I will come in to him  
and will dine with him  
and he with me.'

*Revelation Chapter 3*

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**A light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.**

*Luke Chapter 2 verse 32*

## Jesus the Light of the World

Simeon calls Jesus "a light to enlighten the Gentiles."  
Accordingly this day was made into Candlemas, a feast of  
candles.

The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of  
that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from  
the figure of Jesus.

We are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn  
brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world.

It is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright  
enough, rather it is the light of Christ. The light which at the  
beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no  
darkness could overcome.

Jesus was a light to lighten the gentiles, all the nations and  
races and culture of people.

*'Bless us O Lord, that your light may shine brightly in our lives.'*



## Introduction and Welcome

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 recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. Today 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.

**All: Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple and acclaimed the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.**

*The following responses are used as the church candles are lit*

Minister: The Lord is the strength of my life

**The Lord is my light and my salvation**

Minister: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

**All: A light which no darkness can quench**

## Hymn

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.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter many are homeless. Longing for warmth many are cold  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

## Confession

Minister: Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Let us then bring our personal failures and weakness into his light, confessing our sins and asking for God's strength.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said,  
in what we have done,  
and in what we have not done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*The minister will declare the words of forgiveness*

## The Candlemas Prayer

Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light.  
Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus  
was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth.  
He was recognised by Simeon and Anna,  
and welcomed as the promised Messiah.  
May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus.  
Grant that we may stand before you  
with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love.  
May we serve you all our days  
and make your name known  
as we worship you as our Lord.  
So may we come by your grace  
to eternal life . Amen.

## **Praise**

*The congregation will stand*

Minister: O Lord open our lips

**All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Minister: Let us worship the Lord

**All: All praise to his name**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Offering**

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you**

## **Baptism**

### **Hymn**

Come on and celebrate,  
his gift of love, we will celebrate  
The Son of God who loved us,  
and gave us life.  
We'll shout your praise, O King,  
You give us joy nothing else can bring,  
We'll give to you our offering, In celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate,  
celebrate and sing,  
Celebrate and sing to the King.  
Come on and celebrate,  
Celebrate, celebrate and sing,  
celebrate and sing to the King.

## **The Ministry of God's Word**

*The Collect prayer and Bible readings  
can be followed in Partnership News*

## Hymn

*The light of Christ has come into the world;  
the light of Christ has come into the world.*

All men must be born again to see the Kingdom of God;  
the water and the Spirit bring new life in God's love.

God gave up his only Son out of love for the world;  
so that all men who believe in him will live for ever.

The light of God has come to us so that we might have salvation;  
from the darkness of our sins we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

## The Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

## Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, - our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture-in the Body and the Blood-  
he will give to all the faithful, - his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish. - as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged Seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, alleluia, - alleluia, Lord most high.

## Prayers

*This response may be used:*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy:

All: **hear our prayer.**  
*ending with*

Leader: Merciful Father,

All: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*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.**

### **Collect for the morning**

*(said together)*

**Almighty and everlasting Father, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger; order us in all our doings; and guide us to do always what is right in your eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HYMN

I want to walk with Jesus Christ  
all the days I live of this life on earth;  
to give to him complete control  
of body and of soul.

*Follow him, follow him, yield your life to him  
He has conquered death, he is King of Kings;  
accept the joy which he gives to those  
who yield their lives to him*

I want to learn to speak to him,  
to pray to Him, confess my sin,  
to open my life and let him in,  
for joy will then be mine.

I want to learn to speak of him -  
my life must show that he lives in me;  
my deeds, my thoughts,  
my words must speak all of his love for me.

I want to learn to read his word,  
for this is how I know the way,  
to live my life as pleases him,  
in holiness and joy.

O Holy Spirit of the Lord,  
enter now into this heart of mine;  
take full control of my selfish will  
and make me wholly thine!

## THE BLESSING

Minister: Go in the light and peace of Christ  
to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**