



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

29th January 2023

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Candlemas*

Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday, the Feast of Candlemas. There is also a reflection by our Curate, The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, published separately on the website, the text of which is included in the service.

The service will be in two parts. Our Chaplain, The Revd Jamie Johnston, will lead us through the Ministry of the Word. After the Peace, Roxana will celebrate the Eucharist and we will share in an act of Spiritual Communion, the prayer used where it is not possible for communicants physically to receive consecrated bread and wine.

If you have a candle to hand, you will be invited to light it during the final hymn.

The Gathering

The minister says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

Introduction

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.

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXmrNZKJ3-A>

Sing we of the blessed Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,

And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home;
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May thy Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

Words: George B Timms (1810-1897)
Tune: Abbot's Leigh – Cyril Taylor (1941-1991)

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

cf John 8.12

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 and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
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 celebrant says:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria

All say:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

The minister says

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.

All **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, *
 the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas *
 and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, *
 or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
 who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, *
 a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, *
 of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; *
 and the King of glory shall come in.

- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' *
'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' *
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Glory 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.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

<https://vimeo.com/518979713> 04:10 - 05:50

Faithful vigil ended,
Watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant thy servant
His discharge in peace.

All thy Spirit promised,
All the Father willed,
Now these eyes behold it
Perfectly fulfilled.

This thy great deliv'rance
Sets thy people free;
Christ, their light, uplifted
All the nations see.

Christ, thy people's glory!
Watching, doubting, cease;
Grant to us thy servants
Our discharge in peace.

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 2.29-32
Tune: Pastor pastorum - Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22-40

The minister says

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

All **Alleluia.**

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

All **Alleluia.**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

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.**

Reflection

If you want a joyful, colourful and flavourful Candlemas festival: come to Marseille! Candlemas is, indeed, celebrated in style in this city. No less than eight days of celebrations, with processions, renewal of vows, special candles and biscuits that are blessed and shared, and much more.

The people who will start gathering in the small hours, on Thursday, to pray, and sing, and walk together, are faithful to a long tradition that goes back to the beginning of the 5th century. The one who started it was John Cassian, born in what is now Romania. Cassian was also the one who first established monastic life in the middle of Marseille and whose writings inspired Saint Benedict, founder of Western monasticism and today one of the patron saints of Europe.

Having witnessed in Bethlehem and Egypt the great feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, unknown at that time in Europe, Cassian introduced it to Marseille, even before it was instituted for the whole Western Church by Pope Gelasius at the end of the 5th century. A beautiful encounter between East and West in Marseille. This is heritage that can bear fruit even today.

The true meaning of Candlemas is to be found in its dual nature. There is rejoicing for the revelation of the Christ Child in the Temple, greeted by Simeon and Anna. At the same time, the prophetic words of Simeon, who speaks of the falling and rising of many and of the sword

that will pierce Mary's heart, lead on to Christ's Passion. They warn that the journey of the disciples, like that of their Master, is the way of the cross.

The Eastern Churches call Candlemas the "Feast of the Encounter": for on this day, we hear, in the words of Luke, about the encounter between the Lord who is coming and the people who are waiting for him, represented by Simeon and Anna. The gift of God encounters the hope of humankind. Simeon and Anna sum up the long line of generations of those who seek God, of those who long for him. They are bearers of all the expectations Israel had since the promise God made to Abraham: "in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed". A promise which God has made to offer to all humankind his love and salvation.

Simeon and Anna's lives had been infused with the hope that the Messiah would bring radical newness to the world. And now that their eyes had been opened, they saw in Mary's child born in poverty what was still hidden from the eyes of the world: "The Lord whom you seek has suddenly come to his temple." And thus, God has kept his promise to Israel; in the words of the psalmist, "the King of Glory has come in" and so redemption is at hand.

There is much gladness in Simeon and Anna's encounter with the Christ Child and their faithful hoping and waiting are transformed. These marathon runners of prayer and holiness can be fearless in speaking about Christ's presence among them. In this moment of recognition and thanksgiving, Simeon's response is to praise God in the beautiful words of the Nunc Dimittis, the canticle many Christians say every evening at the office of Compline: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel." Simeon understands that what God will do through this child is a universal offer.

In this scene of intimacy and awe in the temple, we can find the common thread of every human life: God comes to meet us. God's primary and characteristic gesture towards humankind is to come to meet us. We are all here this morning because, one day, we welcomed God who asked - delicately, patiently - to be let into our lives. In the Temple, an encounter happened in the simplicity of a dialogue, an exchange of glances, a respectful gesture, perhaps a smile. Likewise, there is nothing formal or spectacular when God comes to meet us, no fanfare or hosts of angels who sing the Gloria, no fireworks or unusual star in the sky to be observed and followed, no *deus ex machina* moment. The invitation to an encounter is so subtle, that it might go unnoticed. Will we allow ourselves to be surprised by the God who wants to engage with us in a conversation marked by simplicity and familiarity?

The expanse of the paths God takes to meet us is most astonishing: each time different, each time adapted to each person. He sends the Spirit to draw us out of slumber, of habits, of discouragement, of comfortable tranquillity; to secretly lead us towards him, because, like Simeon and Anna, we thirst for him, even if we can't name this longing.

The encounter with God does not happen in an instant. It is a long journey. Simeon and Anna have spent long prayerful years growing in faith and awareness. They have learnt attentiveness to God - so deeply, that when the moment comes, they can be open to the prompting of the Spirit. God is patient. He gives us time - a lifetime - to prepare ourselves to encounter him.

The Jewish philosopher Martin Buber recognised that we get prepared to encounter God through our everyday encounters with other human beings and with the world. He said, "Meet the world with the fullness of your being and you shall meet God." Since God came to visit his people, to experience life with us in the radical simplicity of a human existence, all our human relationships can become visitations, God's breaking into our lives with light and blessing. We should learn such attentiveness to our human encounters, that we could hear God speaking to us through them.

Today, the joy and peace of God, which have been announced at Christmas, are confirmed by Simeon to be a gift to every human being. We need to celebrate this light that breaks in even today, in the midst of the darkness of the world. As Christians, we are charged, like Simeon and Anne, to watch over the hope of all humanity. Therefore, we come, on the feast of Candlemas, to catch a glimpse of this light so we can tell others what we have seen, and witness, through our lives, to our encounter with God in Jesus Christ through the Spirit.

May the light we'll hold in our hands at the end of the service prompt us to allow ourselves to become a light for others and may God give us the grace of the Encounter, so that all our encounters become paths towards his Light.

Amen.

The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, Curate

The Nicene Creed

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray to the Father through Jesus Christ who is our light and life.

You have called your Church to shine as a light in the midst of a dark world. Inspire her with the spirit of love and joy. Fill her with the desire for unity, that, accepting our differences, we may grow in love for one another, to the glory of your name.

We pray for all Church leaders. May your continued blessing rest on our bishops Robert and David, our Archdeacon Peter and the ministry team here in our chaplaincy, that by word and deed they may bear witness to your saving love and power and enable us to take your light into our community.

Today we remember especially the church of St Mark's Hamilton Terrace in London, damaged this week by a serious fire. We pray for their Vicar, The Revd Kate Harrison, and all the congregation. Grant them hope and courage as they face the future, holding your light in their community at this difficult time.

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

We pray for those who bear the responsibility of leadership among the nations of our world. Give them wisdom beyond their own, integrity in all their dealings, and a resolve to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness for all humankind.

May the light of your peace shine in the hearts of all your children and may every nation pursue the path of truth, freedom and justice.

In a week when we have remembered all who died in the Holocaust, help us to renounce the evil of every form of hatred and prejudice, and to commit ourselves to work for reconciliation in the world.

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

We pray that all darkness be dispelled in our world. We hold before you all victims of war and violence, as we continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

In recalling the poverty of the Holy Family, we pray for the destitute, the homeless, all who are refugees, those who seek asylum far from their homeland. Bring them comfort, peace and reassurance that they are precious in your sight. Move us to compassion and to the action that speaks of your love for all people.

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

We bring to you the needs of those whose lives are darkened by suffering, praying especially for those whose sickness has no cure, whose sadness finds no comfort, and whose loneliness can never be filled. Visit them with the light of your presence and help them carry their burden.

From our own community we pray especially for Malcolm, Peter, Margaret, Gabrielle, Eddie, Susan and Jade, and in a few moments of silence we bring to you those we know who need your healing and comfort.

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

Gracious God, your love reaches beyond the grave. We remember before you those who have died - may they rest in your eternal peace. Surround all who mourn with

your strong compassion. Be gentle with them in their grief, protect them from despair, and give them grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

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

Lord God, source of everlasting light, your faithful servants Simeon and Anna watched in hope for the fulfilment of your promises. Give us the same patience and trust. Strengthen our voices to praise you and speak boldly of your salvation and of your love that reaches out to the ends of the earth.

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

The Peace

The minister says

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. *Luke 1.78,79*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T7IBaFYMsl>

We hail thy presence glorious,
O Christ our great High Priest,
O'er sin and death victorious,
At thy thanksgiving feast:
As thou art interceding
For us in heaven above,
Thy Church on earth is pleading
Thy perfect work of love.

Through thee in every nation
Thine own their hearts upraise,
Offering one pure oblation,
One sacrifice of praise:
With thee in blest communion
The living and the dead
Are joined in closest union,
One Body with one Head.

O living bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
Who thine own self hast given
To be our souls' true food;
For us thy body broken
Hung on the cross of shame:
This bread its hallowed token
We break in thy dear name.

O stream of love unending,
Poured from the one true vine,
With our weak nature blending
The strength of life divine;
Our thankful faith confessing
In thy life-blood outpoured,
We drink this cup of blessing
And praise thy name, O Lord.

Words: Richard G. Parsons (1882-1948)
Tune: Offertorium – Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

Preparation of the Table

The celebrant says

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.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

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 indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the Temple

in substance of our flesh

to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people

and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,

he was lifted high upon the cross

and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart

when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name

that we, too, have seen your salvation

and join with angels and archangels

in their unending hymn of praise:

All **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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite,
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God,

**you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The celebrant says

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.

Heavenly Father, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934) - Nunc Dimittis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7RRA2n_-go

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 1662

Prayer after Communion

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.

All **Amen.**

Hymn *during which candles are lit*

<https://soundcloud.com/herefordcathedral/hymn-christ-is-the-worlds>

Christ is the world's true light,
Its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright
Of everyone and nation;
New life, new hope awakes,
Where'er we own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord,
All shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare beat the sword,
To pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name
Unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long,
Has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)

Tune: Nun Danket – Johann Cruger (1647), harm. F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840)

Responses

The celebrant says

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

The Conclusion

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.
Thanks be to God.**

Blessing

The celebrant says

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.

All **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

All **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The candles are extinguished.

Offertory

The Diocese in Europe has a JustGiving page, making it possible for donations to be made to individual chaplaincies in a simple way. For those not already donating by standing order, we would be most grateful for any one-off donations at the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

Please include the words 'This is for the Marseille chaplaincy'. (Occasionally this box does not appear on the JustGiving page – if this happens, please let us know and we will ensure that your gift is allocated to the chaplaincy.)

Alternatively, gifts may be made by bank transfer, either in euros to the chaplaincy in France, or in sterling to the Diocese in Europe Fund in the UK. Please ask us for the bank details if you would like to do this.

Thank you for your support.

Picture: The Presentation in the Temple, Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1290-1348), Uffizi Gallery, Florence