

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



EVENSONG

CANDLEMAS

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

6:30 PM

The Service of Light & Evensong is adapted from an *Order for Worship in the Evening* from the *Book of Common Prayer* 1979 and *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. The first Christians gathered in the evening, and there, in the dark and quiet, the risen Lord Jesus was present with them. A service of light, prayers, scripture, and song has been a staple of evening worship since the early church. Tonight, let the Light of Christ scatter the darkness and bring Peace which passes all understanding, and keep your hearts and minds open to the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. All hymns are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A-725103 or with permission from The Hymnal 1982, Copyright © 1985 by The Church Pension Fund.

GREETING

All stand when the bell rings.

Officiant Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Officiant introduces the liturgy.

Officiant Dear People of God: Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tonight we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we recognize the Lord in our presence now and when he comes again in glory.

During the hymn candles are lit.

COME LIGHT OF LIGHTS

All remain standing and sing the hymn of Light. The hymn is sung multiple times.



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THE BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES

All remain standing.

Officiant Let us pray.

Loving God, today you revealed to Simeon your Light of revelation to the nations. We ask your blessing on these candles; and that we who bear them may walk always as children of that light; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR LIGHT

All remain standing as the Officiant offers the Prayer for Light.

Officiant Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PSALM 84:1A,1C,3-4, 10-12

All are seated. The Psalm is sung using simplified Anglican chant.



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of | hosts! *
- my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living | God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your | house! *

they will always be | praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in | you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' | way.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and | shield; *
he will give grace and | glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord with- | hold *
from those who walk with in- | tegrity.

12 O Lord of | hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in | you!

THE FIRST LESSON

MALACHI 3:1-4

All are seated for the reading.

Reader

A Reading from the Book of Malachi.

Thus says the Lord, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: THE SONG OF MARY

All stand and sing the hymn.



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*
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Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877–1949), alt.

THE SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 2:14-18

All are seated for the reading.

Reader

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since God's 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 what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN

All stand and sing the hymn.

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that
 3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet

bles - ings of the light: keep me, O keep me,
 I this day have done; that with the world, my -
 sleep mine eye - lids close; sleep that shall me more

King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
 self, and thee, I ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 vi - gorous make to serve my God when I a - wake.

Words: Thomas Ken (1637–1711) Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

THE THIRD LESSON

LUKE 2:22-40

All are seated for the reading.

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus 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 turtledoves 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 worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

HYMN

All stand and sing the hymn.

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934) Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'a tempo'. The lyrics are 'Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the vocal line in the treble and the piano accompaniment in the bass. The words 'Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)' are credited for both the words and the music.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All remain standing.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All remain standing.

Officiant The Lord is with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray together:
All **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,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

All remain standing.

Officiant That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
All **We entreat you, O Lord.**
Officiant That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
All **We entreat you, O Lord.**
Officiant That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
All **We entreat you, O Lord.**
Officiant That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
All **We entreat you, O Lord.**
Officiant That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be
condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
All **We entreat you, O Lord.**
Officiant That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion
of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

PRAYERS IN THE EVENING

A Collect for the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, from A New Zealand Prayer Book, p.715

Officiant Everliving God, your Son Jesus Christ was presented as a child in the temple to be the hope of your people; grant us pure hearts and minds that we may be transformed into his likeness, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Our prayers are offered this evening for Madeline, Gavin, Allie, Dorothy, Terri, Diana, Rose, Ruth, Vi, Jay, Sara, Albert, Brian, Kathryn, Eve, Anna, Sybil, Courtney, Dorolyn, Carl, MaryAnn, Tom, Victoria, Thelma, and Bernie. We remember all who have died, especially Glenda, and all those who mourn. I invite you to offer your own prayers, said silently or aloud.

Officiant Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

All

Amen.

Officiant

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our mothers and fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages.

All

Amen.

Officiant

Lord God, source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal temple where you live and reign, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever.

All

Amen.

Officiant

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

All

Amen.



HYMN

All sing the hymn.

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geistliche gesänge Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

DISMISSAL

All remain standing.

Officiant Your word is a lamp to our feet,
People And a light for our path. Amen.

Officiant Go now. Walk in the light; testify to the resurrection of Christ; forgive
the sins of all, and live at peace with one another.
People Thanks be to God.

The service has ended, go in peace, bearing the light of Christ into the world.

