

# 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.*



Come, light of lights, in - to my heart.  
Come, wis - dom of spir - it, in - to my heart.

Text and Music ©2007 Ruth Cunningham, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## 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

*All are seated for the reading.*

**MALACHI 3:1-4**

*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 greatness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glories 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 Mighty 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*  
Copyright: Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877–1949), alt.

## THE SECOND LESSON

*All are seated for the reading.*

Reader

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

## HEBREWS 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one

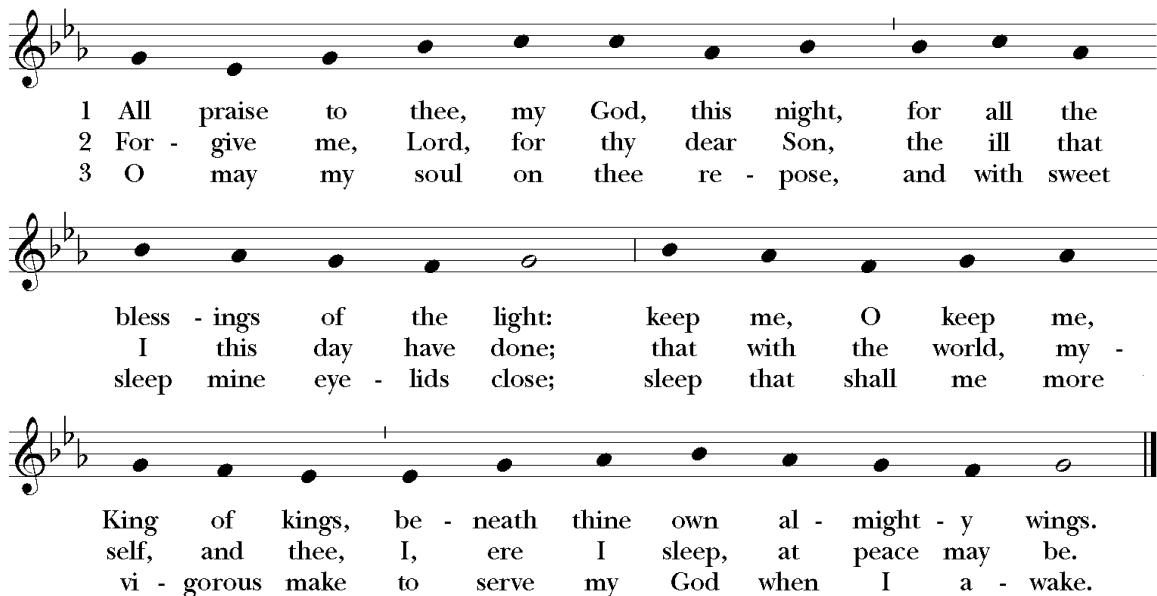
who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might 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  
  
bless - ings of the light: keep me, O keep me, my -  
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

*All are seated for the reading.*

LUKE 2:22-40

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.*

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a specific measure or group of measures. The lyrics are as follows:

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow 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 we  
When we have run with pa-tience the

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. *rit.*

*a tempo*

Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

## 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***

***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 *Geystliche gesangk 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.*

