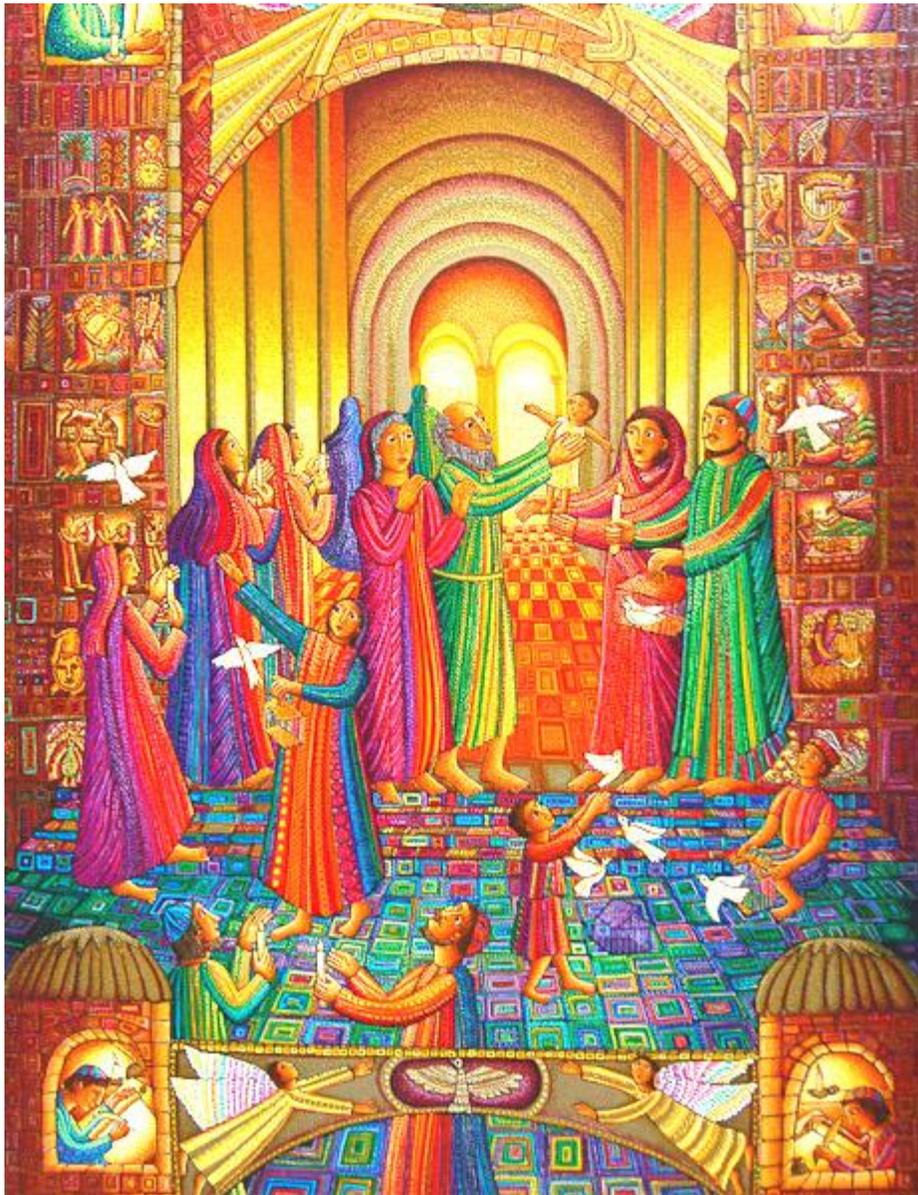


February 2, 2023,

Candlemas: the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



***St. Columba's
Evensong Candle
Light Evening Prayer
Circle***

***Cued Mìle Fàilte! ~
Welcome!***

You are invited to light a candle and please join in all of the songs. Please remain muted except when you are reading or voicing a prayer.

John: Though the 12 days of Christmas ended with Twelfth Night and Epiphany, there is another sense in which this season, in which we reflect on the great mystery of God in Christ as an infant, continues until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This feast came to be called by the shorter and more beautiful name of Candlemas because the day it

celebrates, recorded in Luke 2:22-40, is the day the old man Simeon took the baby in his arms and recognised him as ‘A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.’ It became the custom of the church to light a central candle and bring it to the altar to represent the Christ-light, and also on the occasion of this feast to bless all the ‘lights’ or candles in the church, praying that all who saw that outward and visible light would remember also and be blessed by the inner light of Christ ‘who lightens everyone who comes into the world.’

It had always been prophesied that God would one day come into the Temple that human beings had built for him, though Solomon, who built the first temple had said ‘even the Heavens are too small to hold you much less this temple I have built’. Candlemas is the day we realize that eternity can come into time and touch us in the form of a tiny child, that God appears at last in His Temple, not as a transcendent overlord, but as a vulnerable pilgrim, coming in His Love to walk the road of life alongside us. ~ **Malcolm Guite**



Amber:

*Christ, whose glory fills the sky, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Son of Righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
Visit, then, this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day. **Amen.***

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Ann: The Holy One is in our midst.

(All) O come, let us worship.

Ann: Make haste, O God, to deliver us!

Psalm 70:1, 4

(All) O God, make haste to help me!

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!

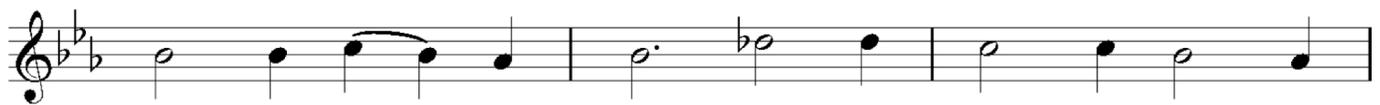
May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

(All)

The Hymnal 1982 - #487 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright ©1911 by Stainer and Bell, Ltd. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

(All) Jesus, Light of Joy

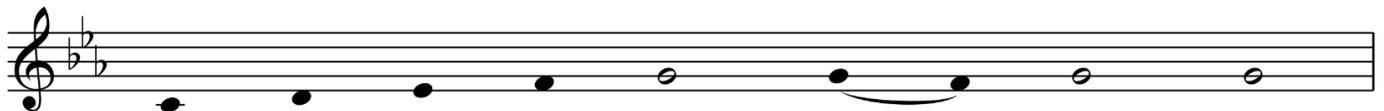
David Gambrell/Picardy



1. Je - sus, light of joy, sur - - round us,
2. When the shad - ows fall a - - round us,
3. With the saints we lift our _____ voic - es,



let your splen - did glo - - ry _____ shine:
when the dark - ness has be - - gun,
God of pow - er, God of _____ might.



source of ev - 'ry earth - ly _____ bless - ing,
still your gra - cious light is _____ with us,
All cre - a - tion shines with _____ glo - ry,



Heav - en's ev - er - last - - ing _____ sign.
bright - er than the morn - ing _____ sun.
sing - ing prais - es day and _____ night.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - - le - lu - - - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - - le - lu - - - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - - le - lu - - - ia,



we a - dore you, light di - - vine
God of glo - ry, Three - in - - One.
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - ly _____ Light.

Bev: It is good to sing praises to you, O LORD,
and to thank you for all your blessings,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness every night,
with the music of my voice or the melody of my silence.
For you let me delight in your world, LORD,
you make my heart sing with joy.

Katherine: How great is your goodness, O LORD,
how unfathomable your justice!
It can't be seen by our eyes and can't be grasped by our thinking;
but every secret is told, every crime is punished,
every good deed is rewarded, every wrong is redressed.
Though chaos rules on the surface,
in the depths all becomes law.

Meg: And the wise flourish like palm trees;
they grow like the cedars of Lebanon,
They are planted in the dark soil of God,
and their leaves keep turning to his light.
Even in old age they bear fruit;
they are green and supple and strong:
living proof that the LORD is just, and his way is perfect. **Amen.**

Psalm 92, A Book of Psalms, Stephen Mitchell

(All) *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*



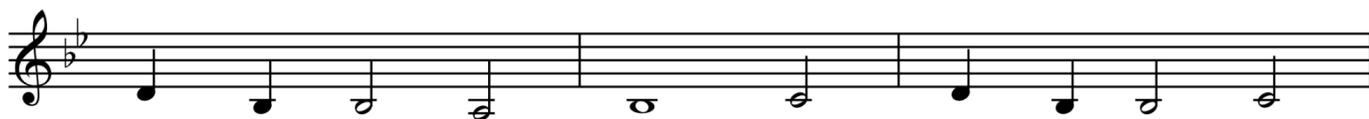
How love - ly is thy dwell - ing place, O
Be - - side thine al - - tars, gra - cious Lord, the
They who go through the des - ert vale will



Lord of hosts, to me! My
swal - lows find a nest; how
find it filled with springs, and



thirst - y soul de - - sires and longs with -
hap - py they who dwell with thee and
they shall climb from height to height till



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py those whose
Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
hearts are set up - - on the pil - grim's quest.
glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.

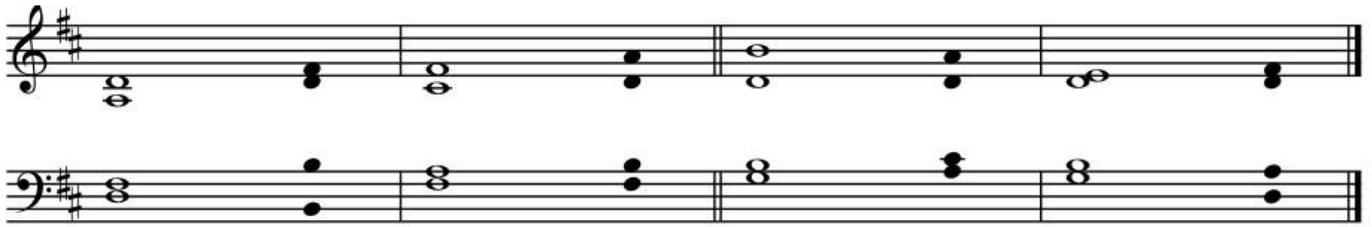
Para. Psalm 84, vs. 1-2: *The Psalms of David in Meter, 1650*, vs. 3: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)
Music: *Brother James' Air*, J. L. Macbeth Bain (1840? - 1925)

Jean W: They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Savior's face is bright. **Amen.**

Candlemas, *Sounding the Seasons*, Malcolm Guite



Candlemas Bells, Snowdrops, symbol of hope.



- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my /prayer; *
hearken, O God of /Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O /God; *
and look upon the face of your A/nointed.
-
- 9 For one day in your courts is better --
than a thousand in my own /room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God --
than to dwell in the tents of the /wicked.
- 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!

Chant tone: Robert Knox Kennedy

Amber: For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are. **Amen.**

Transfiguration, *Sounding the Seasons*, Malcolm Guite



Pause for meditation.

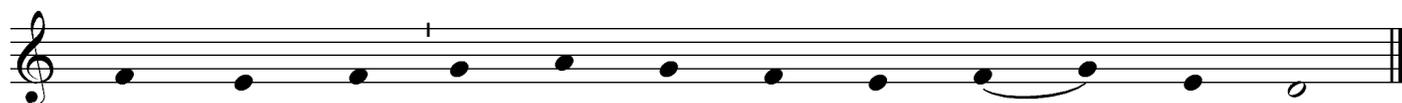
(All) O Splendor of God's Glory Bright



1 O splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that
2 O thou true Sun of heaven - ly love, pour down thy
3 With prayer the Fa - ther we im - plore: O Fa - ther,
4 to guide what - e'er we no - bly do, with love all
5 All laud to God the Fa - ther be; all praise, e -



1 bring - est light from light, O Light of Light, light's
2 ra - diance from a - bove: the Spi - rit's sanc - ti -
3 glo - rious ev - er - more, we plead with thee for
4 en - vy to sub - due, to give us grace our
5 ter - nal Son, to thee; all glo - ry to the



1 liv - ing spring, O Day, all days il - lu - mi - ning,
2 fy - ing beam up - on our earth - ly sen - ses stream.
3 grace and power to con - quer in temp - ta - tion's hour,
4 wrongs to bear, to make ill for - tune turn to fair.
5 Spi - rit raise in e - qual and un - end - ing praise.

Words: Ambrose of Milan (340-397), tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Splendor paternae gloriae*, plainsong, Mode 1, Worcester MS., 13th cent.; acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).



Bill: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

according to Luke (2:22-40)

(All) Glory to you, Lord Christ

Bill: 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."

Meredith: 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,

Bill: "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."

Meredith: 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.

Bill: 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.

May the words of the Gospel be made flesh in us.

(All) Praise to you, Lord Christ.



*Time for silent contemplative prayer ~ 9 minutes
in memory of George Floyd, of Tyre Nichols,
and all who cry out for mercy, justice, and peace;
for healing in our lives, in the earth, in our nation
and the world, in this new year.*



Ann: Let us share our own prayers and thanksgivings,
and pray for the needs of the world.

All are invited to voice your own prayers (unmuted).

Our response: “O Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

Katherine (All): Eternal Spirit,

Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo throughout the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by all the people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
May your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the harm we cause one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and stress, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love,
now and forever. **Amen.**

New Zealand Lord's Prayer, Jim Cotter

(All)

The Hymnal 1982 - #324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the dark - ness clears a way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Bev: Sing to the LORD, all creatures!

Worship him with your joy; praise him with the sound of your laughter.
Know that we belong to him, that he is our source and our home.
Enter his light with thanksgiving; fill your hearts with his praise.
For his goodness is beyond comprehension,
and his deep love endures forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 100, A Book of Psalms, Stephen Mitchell

Meg: We sing to you, O LORD, a new song,
for your miracles renew us each day,
your justice is beyond comprehension, your beauty beyond all praise.
You open the mind of the doubter and touch the fearful with your love.
Light is sown for the righteous and joy for the pure of heart. **Amen.**

Psalm 98, A Book of Psalms, Stephen Mitchell, ad.



(All) You Are the Light

Sarah Hart



1. You are the light that stands a - lone in depth of night and eye of
2. You are the word that's writ - ten deep with - in the hearts of all who
3. O you are God who spoke the dawn; the sav - ior son who came in



1. storm. Where shad - ows fall, you en - ter in; ig - nite with
2. long for end - less days be - yond the skies, for peace on
3. flesh to be a lamp for wan - d'ring hearts, to steal our



1. hope what dark has dimmed. And though our eyes may fail to
2. earth, a king - dom come. We sing the name that heals our
3. dark - ness by your death. And as you rose, you gave us



1. see, it is the heart that's giv - en sight through night and
2. souls, and share the way, the truth, the life. For hearts that
3. peace, your Spir - it - gift to kind - ly lead. Sweet mys - ter -



1. storm, to trust in you. Up - on our path you are the light.
2. long, both lost and found, we speak the word: you are the light.
3. y, how true you guide. We look to you; you are the light.

Katherine: Lord God, ever faithful,
 see us gathered before you as the day draws to a close;
 confirm our hearts in your love,
 and keep alive in us the joy of your goodness and kindness,
 which come to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

A Celtic Primer, alt.

(All) *Light of Christ/Exsultet*

Refrain

All:

The light of Christ sur - rounds us, the
 love of Christ en - folds us, the pow'r of Christ pro -
 tects us, the pres-ence of Christ watch-es o - ver us. To verses

Last time

us, for ev-er, and ev-er, for ev-er, and ev-er. A - men.

Cantors: *As our candles shine out through the darkness of night,
 may the love of Christ burn ever in our hearts.*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen,, based on a prayer by James Dillet Freeman and the Exsultet

Amber: O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, in your great mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

Cardinal John Henry Newman

(All) Nunc Dimittis

Suzanne Toolan

Now in peace, O God, let your ser - vant go.

Al - - le - - lu - - ia, Al - - le - - lu - - ia!

For my eyes have seen your sal - va - - tion;

Al - - le - - lu - - ia, Al - le - lu - - ia!

(All) Dismissal ~

*And now, may God's deep blessing abide upon us,
as we go forth in the peace of Christ,
carrying Christ's light, love, and hope into the world.*

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!



Thank you for coming together in prayer tonight!

We'll meet again next Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Ann McChesney-Young ~ annmccy@gmail.com

*Permission to print / podcast / stream the music in this service is obtained from
ONE LICENSE #A-727808. All rights reserved.*

