

Zoom Candlemas Family Service
Seal St Lawrence and St Margaret's Underriver

We say together the words printed in bold.

Today is the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple when he was a baby. Another name for today is Candlemas, and so today we will light our candles, as we pray for the world and ask God to shine his light among us. So let us gather as a Church family to ask God's blessing on us all, that we might walk in the light of God's love all our lives.

Hymn – Immortal Invisible

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might,
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4 Great God of all glory, great God of all light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

The Greeting

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**God of the young and old,
God of the rich and poor,
God of the sad and the joyful,
God of our past, present and future,
We come to worship you.**

The Light

I light a candle to say thank you for the sun, which brightens our days and shows us all the beauty of your world.

Leader We thank God and say:
All **Thank you for the light.**

I light a candle to say thank you for the moon and stars which light up the night sky and show travellers the way.

Leader We thank God and say:
All **Thank you for the light.**

I light a candle to say thank you for Jesus, the Light of the World, who came to show us the way to God our Father.

Leader We thank God and say:
All **Thank you for the light.**

The Darkness

Some people in our world today don't have a lot of light in their lives. Perhaps they experience the darkness of bullying, of hunger, of loneliness, or of violence. We think about all those affected by the Coronavirus

We bring to mind any part of our own lives that feel dark or lonely. (Blow out one candle)
We think of people who have dark and sad times in their lives. (Blow out one candle)

We remember how our world sometimes judges people, discriminates or ignores people, leaving them alone and in the dark. (Blow out final candle)

Without the love of God, we can too easily live in darkness. We say we are sorry to God when we have added darkness instead of light to our world.

Silence...

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
Forgive us, heal us, bring us joy,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen

We say together

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

Reading (the good news of Jesus)

Talk

The Creed

Through our baptism we are able to stand together and declare our faith as one church. So Let us **affirm** our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

**We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
Who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
Who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

Prayers – Leading us from darkness to light

The 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.**

Final Hymn Christ be our Light

1 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.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 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. Refrain

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

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

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

*Taking the light out into the world - God blesses us and
sends us out.*

*The Lord be with you
And also with you*

Blessing

Spirit of God lead us into light and life,
Give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
And strengthen us to proclaim the words and works of God.
And the blessing...

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

