

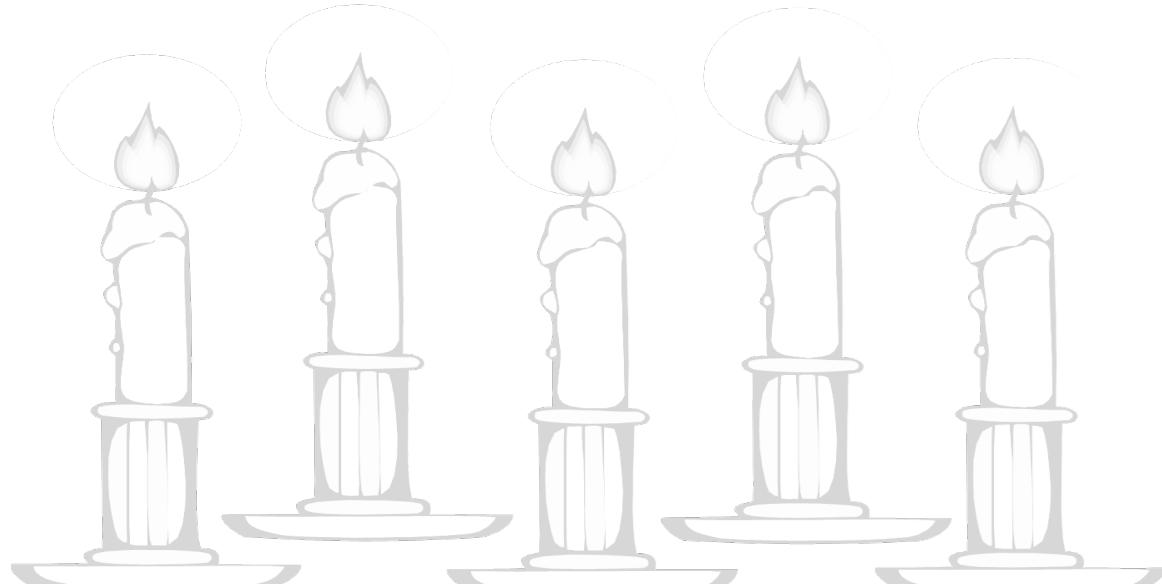


Holy Trinity  
Washington



*Feast of The Presentation  
of Christ in the Temple  
Candlemas*

*Candlemas is a feast rich in meaning, with several related themes running through it - presentation, purification, meeting, and light for the world. The several names by which it has been known in Christian history illustrate just how much it has to teach and to celebrate.*



*But the strongest attraction of Candlemas is the 'bitter-sweet' nature of what it celebrates. It is a feast day, and the revelation of the child Jesus in the Temple, greeted by Simeon and Anna, calls for rejoicing. Nevertheless, the prophetic words of Simeon, which speak of the falling and rising of many and the sword that will pierce Mary's heart, lead on to the passion and to Easter. The scriptures and the liturgy of the Christmas season have several pointers to the suffering of the Lord, but none more potent than the words of Simeon. Coming as they do at the very end of the Christmas celebration and with Lent very close, they make Candlemas a kind of pivot in the Christian year. It is as if we say, 'One last look back to Christmas, and now, turn towards the cross!' The Prayers of Penitence comes before the peace. The procession at the end of the service, that finishes with the congregation around the font when our candles are extinguished, is a visible reminder that the light of the incarnation now faces the darkness of the journey to Jerusalem, the passion, and the cross.*

## **The Gathering**

*The Choir process singing a chant*

## **Welcome and Notices**

## **Opening Hymn**

## **The Greeting**

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

**All Amen**

The Lord of glory be with you  
**All and also with you.**

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 recognised 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.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**All 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

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

**All** 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.  
Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.*

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual Hymn

## **Gospel Reading**

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.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## The Creed

Let us stand to declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on 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 of Intercession

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

*Please sit or kneel*

*These or other responses may be used:*

**Lord, in your mercy                    or Lord, hear us.  
All hear our prayer.                    Lord, graciously hear us.**

*And at the end*

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

## 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.

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament*

### **The Peace**

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 Christ's peace.

### **Offertory Hymn**

### **Offertory Prayer**

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example  
and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup we  
make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we  
worship you, Father almighty  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
**Be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

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

**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,**  
**the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

### **Breaking of Bread**

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.**

## **Giving of Communion**

### **Invitation**

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**All Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*If you are a communicant member of another Church, you are welcome to come up and receive communion. If you are not confirmed, you are encouraged to come up for a blessing. Please keep your hands down so that the celebrant will know to give a blessing.*

## Post Communion Collect

**All Lord you fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to see 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 forever  
Amen.**

## Candlemas Procession

**Hymn - during which the candles are lit.**

Lord God, the springing 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 city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*The Procession to the font begins with a chant*

**All Kindle a Flame to Lighten the dark  
And take all fear away**

## Final Responsory

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**All Help us, in whom he has been born,  
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**All Help us, who have received the bread of life,  
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**All Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

**All Help us, who extinguish these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*Candles are now extinguished, and the choir sing the Nunc Dimitis*

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**All Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**All Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

## **The Blessing**

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.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**