

Sunday 31st January 2021
Family worship at home
The Presentation of Christ
in the Temple
(Candlemas)



Preparation

Today gives us the chance to focus upon the joy of Christmas one last time before looking to the season of Lent which is not far away.

Before you begin you may wish to place a favourite Christmas decoration (or nativity set) on a table and light a candle.

There might be a really special gift you received at Christmas – you could perhaps place that on the table too.

You may wish to find a song to play at the start of your prayer time (something like Away in a manger or another Christmas carol).

Gathering

We meet together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple.

Alleluia!

Today Simeon proclaims Jesus as the Light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

Alleluia!

Praise to Jesus,
the Light of the World!

Saying sorry

As we worship Jesus, let's remember the things we need to say sorry for. We might say these out loud to each other.

For not following Jesus:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord,**
have mercy.

For not being kind to each other:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

May the God of love and forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The special prayer for today

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

The Word of the Lord

Luke 2.

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant;
release me in peace as you promised.
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,
and of glory for your people Israel.

Reflecting together on the Word

- *What was Simeon waiting for?*
- *How good are we at waiting for things?*
- *What can we learn from the experiences of older people?*
- *How might we present Jesus to the world?*

Moving from the Crib to the Cross

You may want to remove your Christmas decoration (or nativity set) from your table and put a cross in its place. This reminds us that we are soon to enter the season where Jesus journeys to the cross.

Here we bring an end to our celebration of Christmas

Help us to live in the light of Jesus

Here we have rejoiced with Simeon and Anna

Help us to trust your promises

Now we move closer to Lent

Help us to walk faithfully with Jesus

Prayers of Intercession

You may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or just keep a moment of silence to rejoice in the presence of Christ

Rejoicing in the presence of Jesus, let us pray to the Father in faith and trust:

Our Father....

or

Our Father in heaven....

The Sending Out

Help us to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

