

# The Parish of Christ Church, Epsom Common



## Candlemas 2022



*(Each member of the congregation is given a candle, those gathering at home may wish to have a candle too, ready to light)*

Choir introit: 'Like a Candle Flame'

### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you **and also with you**

*(Church lights dimmed)*

### **Confession**

Light shows up things that have been forgotten or lost or hidden. As we come into Jesus' presence, his light reminds us of all the good things we have forgotten to do and all the things we have hidden away. But if we say sorry, then we can walk in the light.

As we sit in the darkness we remember

*Voice:* For all the times we have ignored people in need,  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Voice:* For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices,  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Voice:* For all the times we have forgotten your love  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We take a few moments to reflect on those things for which we are sorry.

*(Lights are turned up and those in church switch on their candle and those at home can light their candle. They remain lit for the duration of the service.)*

## **Absolution**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive our sins and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We are in the light, the love and the glory of the Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**May all our lights together become one flame that warms the world to Christ**

## **Hymn: 'In a world where people walk in Darkness'**

*(Lights on the altar and the pascal candle are lit.)*

In a world where people walk in darkness  
Let us turn our faces to the light,  
To the light of God revealed in Jesus,  
To the Daystar scattering our night.

**Chorus:** *For the light is stronger than the darkness  
And the day will overcome the night.  
Though the shadows linger all around us,  
Let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless  
Casts a shadow all along the way,  
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness  
And proclaim the dawning of the day.

**Chorus**

Let us light a candle in the darkness,  
In the face of death, a sign of life.  
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,  
As a sign of peace in place of strife.

**Chorus**

Words: © The Very Revd Robert Willis  
Music: Richard Shephard © Royal School of Church Music

## **Collect**

**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**

**Dramatised Reading based on Luke 2: 22-38**

## **Reflection *by Ruth Burgess***

**Song: 'God is Good All the Time'**

### ***Chorus***

***God is good all the time  
He put a song of praise  
In this heart of mine  
God is good all the time  
Through the darkest night  
His light will shine  
God is good God is good  
All the time***

**If you're walkin' through the valley  
And there are shadows all around  
Do not fear He will guide you  
He will keep you safe and sound  
'Cause He has promised to never leave you  
Nor forsake you and His Word is true**

### ***Chorus***

**We were sinners so unworthy  
Still for us He chose to die  
Filled us with His Holy Spirit  
Now we can stand and testify  
That His love is everlasting  
And His mercies they will never end**

### ***Chorus***

*Don Moen | Paul Overstreet*

## **Prayers *by Christine Odell***

Lord as we grow older, help us to remember that you are always there beside us, enfolding, supporting, uplifting us with your love.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

We pray for those whose old age is a time of freedom and opportunity, asking that they may use their days well, living lovingly, joyfully, and in celebration of their true selves.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

We pray for those whose old age is a time of limitation and frustration, asking that they may know the inner freedom that your spirit alone can bring, your Spirit of love and comfort, joy and peace.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

We pray for those whose old age is richly peopled by family and friends, asking that they might be a source of strength to those tossed by life's tempests, beacons of warm loving in dark times.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

We pray for those whose old age is a time of loneliness and grief, asking that they might know God's loving presence, meeting God in the face of those caring for them, talking with God in their darkest hours.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

Lord as we grow older, life may become harder; there are trials to face. Help us to remember that you are always there beside us enfolding, supporting, uplifting us with your love.

**Christ light of the world: in your mercy hear us**

## **The Peace**

God makes peace within us. **Let us claim it.**

God makes peace between us. **Let us share it.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

*(We share peace with a wave in church and on zoom.)*

## **Hymn: 'Darkness Like a Shroud'**

1. Darkness like a shroud covers the earth  
Evil like a cloud covers the people  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And His glory will appear on you  
Nations will come to your light

### **Chorus**

*Arise shine your light has come  
The glory of the Lord has risen on you  
Arise shine your light has come  
Jesus the Light of the world has come*

2 Children of the light be clean and pure  
Rise, you sleepers Christ will shine on you  
Take the Spirit's flashing two-edged sword  
And with faith declare God's mighty word  
Stand up and in His strength be strong

### **Chorus**

3 Here among us now Christ the light  
Kindles brighter flames in our trembling hearts  
Living Word, our lamp, come guide our feet  
As we walk as one in light and peace  
Till justice and truth shine like the sun

### **Chorus**

4 Like a city bright so let us blaze;  
Lights in every street turning night to day.  
And the darkness shall not overcome  
Till the fullness of Christ's kingdom comes  
Dawning to God's eternal day

### **Chorus**

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick © 1985 Thankyou Music

### **Eucharistic Prayer** *by Ann Lewin*

Father of light, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, the light of the world which no darkness can overcome. We praise you that you have called us from darkness to live in Christ's light. With angels and archangels, and all who are in that light, we praise you saying: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, all praise to your name.**

Come freshly to us now, Lord God. Kindle again the light of your love in our hearts, as we remember Jesus, who on the night before he died took bread and wine, blessed them and gave them to his friends saying, 'This is my body, this is my blood. Eat and drink to remember me.'

Pour out your Holy Spirit, Lord; set us on fire, burn from us all that dims your light; kindle an answering flame in lives around, that darkness may be driven back, and the whole world come to live in your light. For you are the God in whom there is no darkness. To you be praise and glory for ever.

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

We share Communion together gathered as Christ Church here and from our homes. *(Communion is shared)*

Anthem: 'The Will of God'

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome 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**

### **Song: 'Shine Jesus Shine'**

**Lord the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness shining  
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us  
Shine on me shine on me**

#### ***Chorus***

**Shine Jesus shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze Spirit blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow river flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word  
Lord and let there be light**

**Lord I come to Your awesome presence  
From the shadows into Your radiance  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness  
Search me try me consume all my darkness  
Shine on me shine on me**

#### ***Chorus***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me shine on me**

#### ***Chorus***

*Graham Kendrick*

## **Blessing**

*The congregation hold up their candles*

Lord God, who came as light to the whole world, bless these candles to our use, that they may shine with your light, in our church, in our homes, in our worship, leading us towards you and reminding everyone of your love.

**Amen**

When we leave the church, we take the candles lit out with us as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World, and our commitment to seek to bring Christ's light to friend and stranger, in our words, in our compassion and by our actions.

May the light of God's love shine in your home and shine in your heart and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, this night and always. **Amen**

Material from:

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