

Nuneaton Deanery Candlemass Service

The Welcome and Gathering

The Lord of glory be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hymn: Trust and Obey (760)

Opening Candlemas Prayers

Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light. Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth. He was recognised by Simeon and Anna, and welcomed as the promised Messiah. May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus. Grant that we may stand before you with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love. May we serve you all our days and make your name known as we worship you as our lord. so may we come by your grace to eternal life. **Amen**

O God, who in the work of creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Collect

In the tender mercy of our God let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

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 Peace

The dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn: Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining (445)

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.”

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. **Amen.**

Reading - Luke 2.22-40

Reflection by Steve

Prayers of Intercession

Mothers' Union Prayer

All: Loving Lord we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray...

Our Father in heaven,

All hold candles aloft as a Prayer of Blessing of Candles is read by Steve.

Blessed are you, Lord God; to you be all praise and glory for ever and ever, for you are our light and our salvation. You created light out of darkness and have revealed your light and love in our lives through the birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All candles are lit.

Offertory Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness (200)

The Dismissal

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels: may Christ be born in our hearts today. Praise to Christ our light. We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna; help us, like them, to trust your word. Praise to Christ our light. We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world; may we be filled with the light of your love. Praise to Christ our light. We stand near the place of new birth.

Let us shine with the light of your love. We turn from the crib to the cross. Let us shine with the light of your love. We go to carry his light. Let us shine with the light of your love. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing... Amen.

Hymn: To God be the Glory (708)

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Today's Offertory will go to Mother's Union Projects. Please stay to join in fellowship as you eat your lunch and enjoy refreshments.