

Like Simeon,  
may I grow old  
in hope and in wonder.

Like Anna,  
may I be in love with you  
all my days.

May I be open to truth,  
open to surprises

May I let your spirit  
into my life.

May I let your justice  
change my behaviour.

May I live in the  
brightness of your joy.

*Ruth Burgess 2020*



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The solemn blessing included in this rite is original, written by ELR

This Eucharist follows Order One in the Book of Common Worship, 2000

ELR 2008/2015



The Blyth Valley  
Team Ministry

# CANDLEMAS

2021  
Covid Adapted



## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Father,  
the light of whose glory fills the universe,  
bless you and fill you with his love.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
whom Simeon and Anna blessed as the light of the nations,  
bless you and send you to take his light to the world.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who inspired the prophecy of Simeon and Anna,  
bless you as you turn from the wonder of Christ's birth  
to the mystery of his passion.

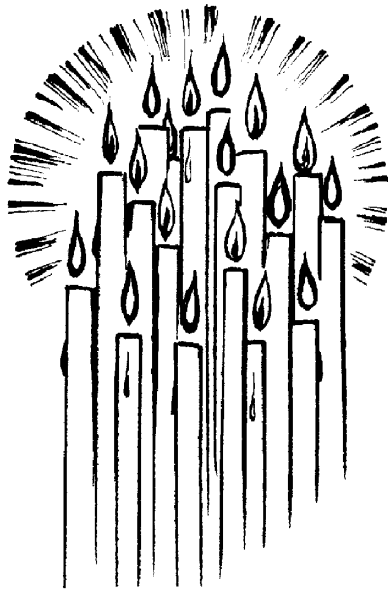
**Amen.**

And the blessing ✠ of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**



**May the body of my Lord Jesus Christ which was broken for us,  
keep our bodies and souls in eternal life.  
May the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for us,  
keep our bodies and souls in eternal life  
And may we feed on him whom we have received in our hearts,  
by faith with thanksgiving. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people .

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these your gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes  
to bring us eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

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

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

Here we offer the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Help us to be thankful for your gifts to us**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**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.

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

*Blow out your candles*

## **GATHERING**

Within your temple, we ponder your loving kindness, O God. As your name, so also your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with justice.

#### **THE ENTRANCE SONG**

In the name ✠ of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**And also with you.**

Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna , in their old age, recognised him as their Lord and proclaimed him with joy. As we today sing of his glory in this Eucharist, we shall recognise him in the breaking of bread. Our hearts turn to wonder at his passion, and we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

## **THE BLESSING OF CANDLES**

Let us pray.

God our Father, source of all light,  
today you revealed to Simeon and Anna  
your Light of revelation to the nations.  
Bless ✠ these candles and make them holy.  
May we who carry them to praise your glory  
walk in the path of goodness  
and come to the light that shines for ever,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of your faithful people

By the brilliance of your eternal splendour,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up our church and homes to your glory  
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled  
and so be counted worthy to stand before you  
in that eternal temple where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Light candles and hold up*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of your people.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of your people.**

A light to reveal you to the nations:  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of your people.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of your people.**

## THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

*At the end of each these words are said:*

**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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

**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.**

## THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**Father of all,  
We thank you for the gift of the holy body and precious blood  
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Since at this time we cannot receive him in the holy sacrament,  
may he come spiritually into our hearts.**

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.  
Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth,  
heal the sick,  
let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with Our Lady, St Joseph, Simeon and Anna and all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we look for the coming of the Kingdom, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL

#### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple  
in substance of our mortal nature.

**Alleluia!**

Today the Blessed Virgin comes  
to be purified in accordance with the law.

**Alleluia!**

Today old Simeon and Anna proclaim Christ  
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

**Alleluia! Praise to Christ, the Light of the world!**

#### THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*After the Gospel reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### THE SERMON

#### THE PRAYERS

#### 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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The Peace is shared.*

### **THE PRAYER OF OFFERING**

Father, Christ is the light we proclaim to the nations;  
accept the offering of your Church  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.  
**Amen.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**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:

**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!**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he 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.