

*An Office of Evening Prayer for Candlemas,  
The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the  
Temple.*

*(Supplementary Material)*

*If possible, please have a candle or candles ready  
at home to be lit as part of this service.*

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 service, 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.

*The Candle(s) is (are) lit*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**He is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:

To you be glory and praise for ever!  
For you are our light and our salvation.  
In your Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,  
there has sprung up a light for the righteous  
and joyful gladness for those who are faithful.  
As we, like Simeon and Anna, welcome him with  
joy, presented before us as light of all the world,  
may we be filled with his Spirit and made a living  
temple to the praise and glory of your holy name.  
And, as we join our praises with theirs,  
grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

**Blessed be God for ever!**

*Hymn*

O gladsome Light, O Grace  
of God the Father's face,  
th'eternal splendour wearing;  
celestial, holy, blest,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
joyful in Thine appearing!

Now, as day fadeth quite,  
we see the evening light,  
our wonted hymn outpouring;  
Father of might unknown,

Thee, His incarnate Son,  
and Holy Ghost adoring.  
To Thee of right belongs  
all praise of holy songs,  
O Son of God, Life-giver;  
Thee, therefore, O Most High,  
the world does glorify  
and shall exalt for ever

Greek, before 4<sup>th</sup> Century  
Tr Robert Bridges 1844-1930

*Psalm 24*

**Haggai 2. 3-9**

*The Magnificat*

**Luke 2. 22-40**

*The Nunc Dimittis*

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.**

We have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

We have greeted the Light of the world.  
**Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.**

We remember our Baptism.  
**Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share  
the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Now we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.  
**Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply  
into the Easter mystery.**

*Intercessions*

*Collects*

*Our Father...*

*Conclusion*

*Some material has been modified from 'The Promise of His Glory'. The original material is Copyright © The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.*