

INTRODUCTION

Candlemas is the climax of the Christmas and Epiphany season. It is a feast rich in meaning, with several related themes running through it—presentation, purification, meeting, and light for the world. The various names by which it has been known in Christian history illustrate just how much it has to teach and to celebrate.

But the true meaning of Candlemas is found in its ‘bitter-sweet’ nature. It is a feast day, and the revelation of the child Jesus in the Temple, greeted by Simeon and Anna, calls for rejoicing. Nevertheless, the prophetic words of Simeon, which speak of the falling and rising of many and the sword that will pierce Mary’s heart, lead on to the passion and to Easter. Coming at the very end of the Christmas celebration, with Lent nearly always nearby, Candlemas is a real pivot in the Christian year.

Today’s liturgy is in two parts. A candle-lit vigil is kept, recalling in readings and music the journey of the holy family to the temple courts of Jerusalem, and culminating with the singing of the Candlemas Gospel. In the procession which concludes the service, our lighted candles are a sign of the promised Christ, our light and our salvation.

The congregation is asked to stand for the hymns, responsories and collects to sit for the readings and motets, and to join heartily in all those parts of the service printed in **bold type**. The service involves the carrying of lighted candles in procession. Please hold your lighted candle upright to avoid the hot wax falling on you or on the tiled floor.

At the end of the service the thurifer, crucifer and acolytes, followed by the clergy, congregation and choir will process down the centre of the nave, up the north aisle, on to the North Transept, around the ambulatory, on to the South Transept, down the South Aisle. The procession will end with the clergy in the baptistery with congregation and choir lined in front of the baptistery gates. The final responsories will be said in the baptistery.

Please keep silence for the Organ Prelude

ORGAN PRELUDE

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin BWV 616

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*The clergy and the cathedral choir are led to the west end by the crucifer and acolytes during
the organ voluntary*

At the end of the voluntary the lights are dimmed and darkness falls

Please remain seated

THE VIGIL

PART I INCARNATION - THE WORD MADE FLESH

Videte miraculum matris Domini: Conceptit virgo virilis ignara consortii, stans onerata nobili onere Maria; et matrem se laetam cognoscit, quae se nescit uxorem.

Behold the miracle of the mother of the Lord; a virgin has conceived though she knows not a man, Mary, who stands laden with her noble burden; knowing not that she is a wife, she rejoices to be a mother.

Haec speciosum forma prae filiis hominum castis concepit visceribus, et benedicta in aeternum Deum nobis protulit et hominem.

She has conceived in her chaste womb one who is beautiful beyond the sons of men, and blessed for ever, she has brought forth God and man for us.

Stans onerata nobili onere Maria; et matrem se laetam cognoscit, quae se nescit uxorem.

Mary, who stands laden with her noble burden; knowing not that she is a wife, she rejoices to be a mother.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

Et matrem se laetam cognosci, quae se nescit uxorem.

Knowing not that she is a wife, she rejoices to be a mother.

Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585)

Respond at 1st Vespers, Purification of B.V.M.

Please remain seated

RESPONSORY *In the darkness, the priest introduces the service:*

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
And we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

The priest walks into the nave carrying the light and says:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world
A light no darkness can quench
The darkness is not dark with you
The light is as bright as the day
Let your light scatter the darkness
And illuminate your church with glory.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*The candles of the congregation are lit as the procession moves to the sedilia
while the choir remains at the west end*



**At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders in their great array.**

**Humbled for a season to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.**

**Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
Through the ranks of creatures to the central height;
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory of his perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true:
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With his Father's glory, with his angel train;
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.**

When all candles are lit, the priest says:

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear friends, forty days have passed since 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. His mother was purified according to the custom of the time, and 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. 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. So let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

A silence is kept

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 and we your children wait for your loving kindness in the midst of your temple. 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 now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit while the choir sings:

Hodie beata Virgo Maria puerum Jesum praesentavit in templo,
On this day, the blessed Virgin Mary took the child Jesus when she went to the temple,
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto, accepit eum in ulnas suas,
And Simeon, being filled with the Holy Spirit, receiv'd him in his arms,
Et benedixit Deum in aeternum.
And blessed God in eternity.

William Byrd (1539 – 1623)

Magnificat Antiphon, Presentation Vespers

Please remain seated

COLLECT

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts;
eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil;
eternal Power, be our support;
eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance;
eternal Pity, have mercy on us;
that with all our heart and mind and strength
we may seek your face
and be brought by your infinite mercy
to your holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 12:50 - 13:3a, 11-12a, 13b-16

Please stand for the responsory and collect

RESPONSORY

Search the Scriptures, as Christ told us in the gospels.

We find him born in our midst.

Born as a child and bound in swaddling clothes.

We find him born in our midst.

Laid in a manger and fed upon a mother's milk.

We find him born in our midst.

Presented in the temple and carried by Simeon.

We find him born in our midst.

In truth he has appeared in the world.

We find him born in our midst.

COLLECT

O Lord, you have given us your word
for a light to shine upon our path;
grant us so to meditate on that word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more
until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please remain standing

HYMN

During which the choir moves to the front of the screen



**Sing how the age-long promise of a Saviour
Spoken through lips of prophets by the Spirit,
In blessed Mary, Mother of the Christ-child,
Finds its fulfilment.**

**Virgin most pure, and wondrously conceiving,
Bearing incarnate God in awed obedience,
Now she presents him for a spotless offering
Unto his Father.**

**In God's high temple, Simeon the righteous
Takes to his loving arms with holy rapture
That One for whom his longing eyes had waited,
Jesus, Messiah.**

**Where now his Mother next her Son is seated,
In those fair mansions of the heavenly kingdom,
May Christ our Saviour grant to us his servants
Life everlasting. Amen.**

Tune: Iste Confessor (II)
Poitiers Antiphoner, 1746

Anon., based on the Latin, c. 9th century

Please sit

THE SECOND READING

Leviticus 12: 6-8

Please remain seated while the choir sings:

Long, long ago

*Long, long ago, Oh! So long ago
Christ was born in Bethlehem
To heal the world's woe.*

His mother in the stable
Watched him where he lay
And knew for all his frailty
He was the world's stay.

While he lay there sleeping
In the quiet night
She listened to his breathing
And oh! her heart was light.

She tended him and nursed him,
Giving him her breast,

And knew that it was God's son
In her crook'd arm at rest.

Shepherds at the sheep-folds
Knew him for their King;
And gold and myrrh and frankincense
Three wise men did bring.

For he should be the Saviour,
Making wars to cease,
Who gives joy to all men,
And brings to them peace.

*Long, long ago, Oh! So long ago
Christ was born in Bethlehem
To heal the world's woe.*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

John Buxton from *Such liberty*

Please stand

RESPONSORY

From the Virgin Mary shines forth Jesus, our Saviour.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

He gives light to those in darkness.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

Simeon rejoices, in old age carrying the Redeemer of the world.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

Anna prophesies in the temple of our God.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

He is the one who offers and is offered for us.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

He bestows on us his risen power.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you have stooped to raise fallen humanity, by the child-bearing of blessed Mary. Grant that we who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature, and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please extinguish your candles and remain seated

Anthem

Sung by the choir

HYMN AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Hail, gladdening Light,
of his pure glory poured,
Who is the immortal Father,
heavenly, blest,
Holiest of Holies,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine:
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.
Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God,
giver of life, alone;
Therefore in all the world
thy glories, Lord, they own.

Charles Wood (1869-1944)

John Keble (1792-1866), from the Greek

COLLECT

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

THE THIRD READING

Isaiah 6: 1-8

I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

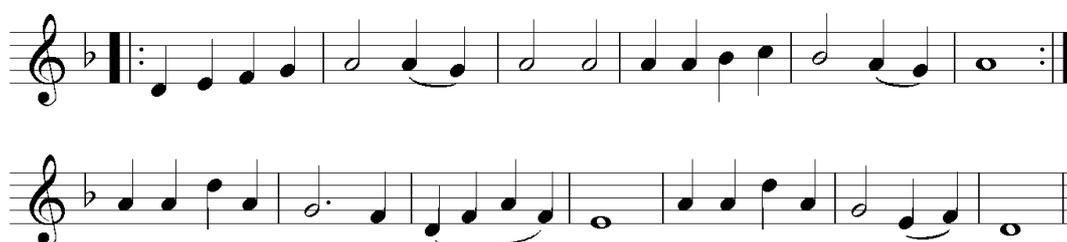
Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Please stand

PART II REVELATION - THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE

During the hymn the gospel procession moves down the nave while the choir moves into the choir stalls

HYMN



**In his temple now behold him,
See the long-expected Lord!
Ancient prophets had foretold him;
God hath now fulfilled his word.
Now to praise him his redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.**

Tune: Picardy

French traditional melody

**Jesu, by thy Presentation,
Thou who didst for us endure,
Make us see thy great salvation,
Seal us with thy promise sure;
And present us in thy glory,
To thy Father, cleansed and pure.**

Henry J. Pye (1825-1893)

Please remain standing

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

The presentation in the temple

The Gospel Reading is introduced by the priest with this acclamation:

We proclaim not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord

And ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For the God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness'

Has caused his light to shine within us.

To give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God

In the face of Jesus Christ.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the gospel the priest says:

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

ORGAN FANFARE *during which the Gospel procession returns to the Sedilia.*

THE PRAYERS

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Please sit or kneel

By the mystery of the Word made flesh
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan
Good Lord, deliver us.

For the kingdoms of this world,
that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ
We pray to you, O Lord.

For your holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
that it may be one
We pray to you, O Lord.

For the witness of your faithful people,
that they may be lights in the world
We pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; that they may be
relieved and protected
We pray to you, O Lord.

For the aged, for refugees and all in danger,
that they may be strengthened and defended
We pray to you, O Lord.

For those who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death,
that they may come to your eternal light
We pray to you, O Lord.

Father, source of light and life,
Grant the prayers of your faithful people,
and fill the world with your glory,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please remain seated as the Choir sings:

'When to the Temple Mary went'

When to the temple Mary went
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see
As it had been reveal'd,
He took up Jesus in his arms
And blessing God he said;
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen;
The Hope of Israel, the Light of Men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take
May gently fall asleep and with thee wake.

Johannes Eccard (1553–1611)

Translated from the German by J. Troutbeck (1832–1899)

PART III THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Please stand as the cathedral lights are dimmed and the priest says:

This child is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected. And a sword shall pierce your own soul also.

THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit and hold out your candle as the choir sings the NUNC DIMITTIS.
During the Nunc Dimittis, the candles of the congregation will be lit.

Antiphon

A light to lighten the Gen - tiles; and the glo-ry of thy peo-ple Is-ra-el.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Gustav Theodore Holst (1874 -1934)

The song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. *Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As is was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen

Antiphon

A light to lighten the Gen - tiles; and the glo-ry of thy peo-ple Is-ra-el.

The deacon sings:

Let us proceed in peace.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

During the hymn, please carry your candle carefully, and follow the procession after the choir. The vergers will direct you out of your seats. Please take your possessions with you. If the procession has not finished by the end of verse 6, we will return to verse 1.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Tune: Piae Cantiones (1582)
arranged by David Willcocks

Prudentius (c. 348-413)
translated by R.F. Davis (1866-1937)

THE DISMISSAL

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 have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.
**Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

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.**

Please extinguish your candles

Here we now stand near the place of baptism.
**Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

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

Here we bless one another in your name.
**Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Please remain standing for the procession of choir and clergy and for the

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Benedict Schlepper-Connolly (b. 1985)

Your Light Illuminates Everything

which concludes the service





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The Music Room, Christ Church Cathedral

Wine and refreshments available

Monday 1st February

12 ANGRY MEN (1957)

Introduced by Dermot Manning, Barrister

Monday 8th February

CITIZENFOUR (2014)

Introduced by Dr T.J. McIntyre, UCD Law & Chairman, Digital Rights Ireland

Monday 15th February

PERSEPOLIS (2007)

Introduced by Canon Patrick Comerford, former Foreign Desk Editor, The Irish Times

Monday 22nd February

CATHY COME HOME (1966)

Introduced by Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy, Focus Ireland

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