

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN**



**THE CANDLEMAS PROCESSION**

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025  
17:00

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. 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 congregation guided by the vergers, join in the procession. The procession will end with the clergy in the baptistery with congregation and choir lined in front of the baptistery gates. The final responsaries will be said in the baptistery.

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

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

*Please remain seated until the first hymn.*

## PART I INCARNATION - THE WORD MADE FLESH

### **Motet**

All this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

This night there is a child yborn  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn;  
We must sing and say therefor,

Jesus is the child's name,  
And Mary mild is his dame;  
All our sorrow shall turn to game:

It fell upon high midnight:  
The stars shone both fair and bright;  
The angels sang with all their might.

Now kneel we down on our knee,  
And pray we to the Trinity  
Our help, our succour for to be;

All this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.'

William Walton (1902-1983)

### **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.

*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.**

Tune: Evelyns  
W.H. Monk (1823-1889)

Caroline Noel (1817-1877)

## **The Bidding Prayer**

*When all candles are lit, the priest says:*

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*

### **Motet**

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)

*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**

All the Israelites did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. That very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, company by company. The Lord said to Moses: Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. Moses said to the people, 'Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. 'When the Lord has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and has given it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your livestock that are males shall be the Lord's. But every firstborn donkey you shall redeem with a sheep; if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck. Every firstborn male among your children you shall redeem. When in the future your child asks you, "What does this mean?" you shall answer, "By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborn to the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord every male that first opens the womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem." It shall serve as a sign on your hand and as an emblem on your forehead that by strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.'

*Please stand*

## **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*

When the days of her purification are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb in its first year for a burnt-offering, and a pigeon or a turtle-dove for a sin-offering. He shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement on her behalf; then she shall be clean from her flow of blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, male or female. If she cannot afford a sheep, she shall take two turtle-doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt-offering and the other for a sin-offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be clean.

## **Motet**

Responsum accepit Simeon a Spiritu Sancto,  
*It was revealed to Simeon by the Holy Ghost,*  
non visurum se mortem nisi videret Christum Domini.  
*It was revealed to Simeon by the Holy Ghost Christ the Lord.*

William Byrd (1539/40 - 1623)

Luke 2: 26

*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 sit*

## **Motet**



*During the singing of the motet, please extinguish your candles.*

O nata lux de lumine,  
O *Light of light, by love inclined,*  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
*Jesu, redeemer of mankind,*  
Dignare clemens supplicum  
*With loving-kindness deign to hear,*  
Laudes precesque sumere.  
*From suppliant voices praise and prayer.*  
Qui carne quondam contegi  
*Thou who in fleshly form didst dwell*  
Dignatus es pro perditis.  
*And deign to raise our souls from hell,*  
Nos membra confer effici,  
*Vouchsafe us when our race is run,*  
Tui beati corporis.  
*In thy fair Body to be one.*

Jack Oades (b.1994)

14th century Latin hymn

## **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.

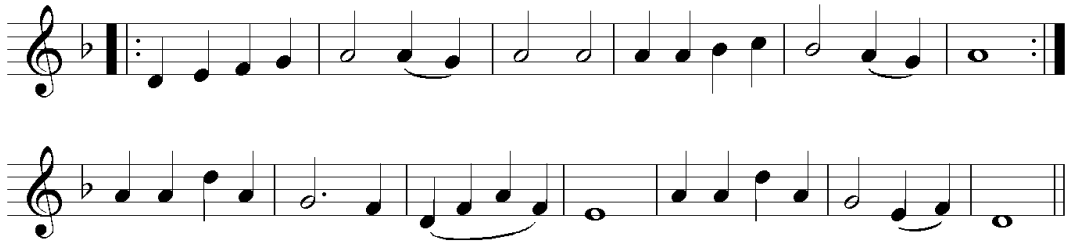
And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

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*

## Hymn

*During the hymn the gospel procession moves down the nave while the choir moves to the Quire*



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 redeemèd  
Shall break forth with one accord.

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.

Tune: Picardy  
French traditional melody

Henry J. Pye (1825–1893)

*Please remain standing*

## The Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

*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.**

*All turn to face the Gospel.*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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.**

## Motet

Suscepimus, Deus, misericordiam tuam in medio templi tui,  
*We have received Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy temple;*  
secundum nomen tuum, Deus. Ita et laus tua in fines terrae:  
*according to Thy Name, O God, so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth;*  
Justitia plena est dextera tua.  
*Thy right hand is full of justice.*

Magnus Dominus et laudabilis nimis in civitate Dei nostri, in monte sancto ejus.  
*Great is the Lord, and exceedingly to be praised, in the city of God, in His holy mountain.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,*  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.  
*as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.*

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Introit for the Feast of the Purification

## 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 servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.*

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:

*For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;*

Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Please stand*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto;

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with end. Amen.*

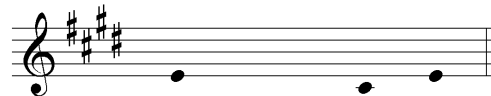
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

#### Antiphon



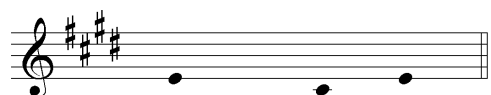
A light to lighten the Gen - tiles; and the glo-ry of thy peo-ple Is-ra-el.

*The deacon sings:*



Let us proceed in peace.

*All respond:*



Thanks be to God.

## Processional Hymn

*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.*



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*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Choral *from* Symphonie II Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

*which concludes the service*



*To learn more about the cathedral, and its services and events,  
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