



In Faith  
Out There

St. Luke's Church  
Maidenhead

All Age Holy Communion  
and Christingle  
at Candlemas



*There is an old Moravian custom of giving children a lighted candle on Christmas Eve. The Christingle Service is an attractive and meaningful development of this. The service can be held any time between Advent and Candlemas.*

*During the service the congregation will be given a Christingle. The orange of the Christingle represents the world, and the candle represents Christ the Light of the World. The fruits and sweets remind us of God's goodness in giving us the fruits of the earth. The red ribbon represents the life and death of Jesus.*

*The 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas. This is the day on which we commemorate Mary and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple as the law required. There Simeon, an old and wise man to whom it had been promised that he would see the Messiah before he died, took Jesus in his arms, and recognised that the promise had been fulfilled. He declared that Jesus was "to be a light to lighten the gentiles and ....the glory of thy people Israel." Jesus was to be Light for the whole world, for everyone..*

*During the service we will remember not only that Christ is light, but that he is the Light of the world. We will pray that he will shine in us, and we will remember and pray for the needs of the world. A collection will be made in aid of The Children's Society, to help support their work among needy children.*

## **The Gathering**

### **Hymn**

*We stand to sing the hymn*

*We greet each other*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

### **Introduction**

*The president introduces the 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 recognized 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.

### **Saying sorry**

*We say sorry to God for the wrong things we think, do and say, with these , or other words:*

God our Father,  
we want to say sorry.

For the times we have not lived by your values  
**We are truly sorry**

For the times we have been unkind to others  
**We are truly sorry**

For the times we have not helped people in need  
**We are truly sorry**

*We hear God's words of forgiveness*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Gloria**

*We stand and praise God as we sing:*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father  
Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit

**The Collect**

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,  
as a human like us:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Hymn**

**Reading**

*The Gospel reading is announced.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end we say:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Talk**

**The Creed**

*We are invited to stand and affirm our faith*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*We kneel or sit and we are led in prayer.*

*Responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*We stand*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Hymn

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Father, in Christ a light has been given to all people;  
accept the gifts we bring before you  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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 always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator,  
loving and faithful,  
holy and strong.  
You made us  
and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.  
You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

*A bell is rung*

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

*A bell is rung*

Jesus Christ has died    **Jesus Christ has died.**

Jesus Christ is risen.    **Jesus Christ is risen.**

Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.  
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

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.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to communion*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*We are invited forward to receive bread and wine, or a blessing.  
We sing a hymn at this time or pray quietly.*

The Body of Christ, broken for you.      **Amen**

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.      **Amen**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*We stand up and our Christingle candles are lit .*

*The president says*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
King of the universe.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

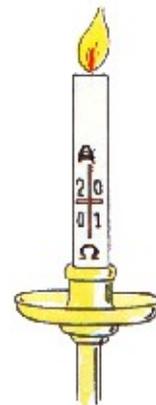
Your light shines on us  
and all peoples shall see your glory.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;  
he makes our darkness to be light.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,  
bearing witness to your truth.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

As we bear your light,  
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**



## Hymn

### Final Responsory

*We turn to face the font*

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.**

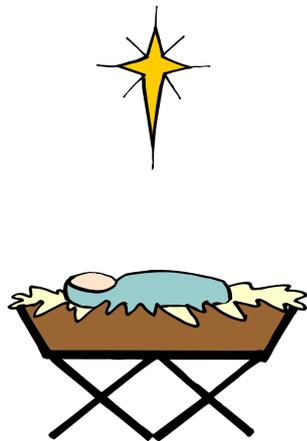
We turn from the crib to the cross.

**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We go to carry his light.

**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

**Thanks be to God.**



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