



A CELEBRATION OF CANDLEMAS

Sunday 2nd February 2025

10.00am

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Today is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It is also called the feast of Candlemas. We gather as family to ask God's blessing on us all, that we might walk in the light of God's love all our lives.

Hymn

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.**

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
The light of Christ, fullness of grace.*

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.**

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
The light of Christ, fullness of grace.*

As we gather together

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we put aside the things that distract us

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we leave behind the things that worry us

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we forget about ourselves

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we worship you with songs of praise

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we listen to stories from your Word

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we hear your teaching

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD

Light shows up things that have been forgotten or lost or hidden. As we come into Jesus's presence, his light reminds us of all the good things we have forgotten to do and all the things that have been hidden away. But if we say sorry, then we can walk in the light.

For all the times we have ignored people in need, Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices, Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

For all the times we have forgotten your love, Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive you your sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reading - Luke 2:22-40

TURNING FIGURES TO LIGHTS!

Hymn

**Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet**

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

**Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.**

So light up the fire and let the flame burn

**Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die,
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.**

So light up the fire and let the flame burn

THE WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, N by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

PRAYERS

For our activity the children are invited to go into St George's Chapel and decorate a candle which they will take home with them to remind them to pray for places and people who need God's light. Everyone else is invited to turn to the candle flame in the order of service and either share with your neighbour or write on the flame places or people that you can think of today that need God's light.

For our prayers we will think about people or places you have thought of as needing God's light and we will use our tea-light stand to light a candle for them. We finish our prayers by saying together the Lord's Prayer

All 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.

GIFTS!

Hymn (*during which a collection is taken for the work of this parish. The contactless giving machine is also available at the back of church*)

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Shine, Jesus, shine
fill this land with the Father's glory
blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with love and mercy,
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus, thank you that Simeon and Anna recognised you as a special baby, and knew you would grow up to do God's special work. Help us to discover who you are, and how you are special. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, and with those whom you love and pray for, today and always.

All Amen.

We go to carry his light and blessing.

All Let us shine with the light of your love. Thanks be to God.

NOTICES

REFRESHMENTS There is tea or coffee available in the Hall, please do join us.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE do join us from 10.00-12noon every Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

ALTERNATIVE BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday 11th February at 7.30pm in St James' Lounge to look at Part 3 – Greed; chapters 7 and 8 from our book 'The Power of Imperfection' by Ruth Scott. If you would like to join the group please get in touch with Revd Ruth.

MIDDAY COMMUNION at St James' Church will be on Wednesday 5th February. Everyone is welcome.

TRIBUTE NIGHT Why not come along to an Amy Winehouse Tribute night at St John's Church Hall on Saturday 22nd February at 7.30pm, also songs from the 60's and Motown. Tickets £10 to include a Pie and Pea Supper. Doors open from 7pm and the bar will also be open. Tickets available after service on Sundays at St John's or from Loraine call 07960 018025 or from the Parish office call 01274 594941.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF PARISHIONERS I am delighted to say that John Riley has kindly agreed to stand as Parish Warden to fill the current vacancy. We do need to elect John to this role and I am therefore calling an Extraordinary Meeting of Parishioners on Sunday 9th February at 12noon in St John's Church Hall. Everyone is very welcome to attend, it should be a very short meeting as the only item on the agenda will be to elect John to the post. It would be great if we could have a good number of people present to support John in his new role.

STAGE CLEAR UP FROM CHRISTMAS As we have the Tribute Night at the end of February we need to clear the stage of the Christmas trees and things left over from Christmas. We have decided to do this after the Meeting of the Parishioners on Sunday 9th February. If you are able to stay and give us a hand that would be great!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is a women led, global, ecumenical movement promoting informed prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people; helping raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service. For 2025 the service has been written by women of the Cook Islands 'I made you wonderful'. Our local World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 7th March at Baildon Moravian Church at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER AT ST JAMES I am delighted to say that Loraine Radcliffe has agreed to take up this post temporarily for three months until our current funding runs out at the end of March. Loraine has made a great start and is already buzzing with ideas! I shall be submitting an application for another round of funding from Baildon Town Council for a further three years funding, so your prayers that we are successful.

LENT CONVERSATIONS We are now able to announce that our conversations this year will be using the book entitled 'Meeting Jesus at the Table' by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. The book is priced at £11.99 but if you would like to attend and would find this cost difficult please speak to Rev Ruth or Canon Sandra. We will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons, 12.15—2.00pm at St James's Lounge starting on Wednesday 26th February and running until 9th April (excluding Ash Wednesday). The book is themed around Christian hospitality and looks at stories of Jesus sharing food and fellowship with people. We will begin each session on Wednesday afternoon by sharing a simple meal together and it would be good therefore to know approximately numbers of people thinking about attending. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church for you to sign if you are interested in attending.

We will also be holding a time on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm for these conversations, the venue for these will be announced as soon as we can.

