

Candlemas Evensong
Feb 2, 2025.



St. Helen's
Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please gather in silence near the entrance before the service begins. All are provided with candles, which are lit individually from the Christ candle.

Announcements, followed by a moment of silence.

The congregation stands, facing the Christ candle.

Presider:

This is a light to reveal God to the nations
and the glory of his people Israel.

LUKE 2:32

As we gather, we acknowledge with respect and gratitude our presence
on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Musqueam People.



Cantor:

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be ^lwith you.

And ^lalso with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord ^lour God.

It is right to give our ^lthanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. ^l

You make our darkness to be light. ^l

For with you is the well of life

and in your light shall we ^lsee light.

Blessed be ^lGod for ever.

The priest then blesses the candles, saying:

Presider:

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light
who enlightens everyone that comes into this world:
pour forth your blessing + upon these candles,
and + sanctify them with the light of your grace,
and mercifully grant, that as these lights,
enkindled with visible fire, dispel the darkness of night,
so our hearts, illumined by invisible fire
—that is, by the splendour of the Holy Spirit—,
may be free from the blindness of all vice,
that the eye of our mind being cleansed,
we may be able to discern what is pleasing to you
and profitable to our salvation;
so that after the perilous darkness of this life
we may deserve to attain to never-failing light:
through your, O Christ Jesus, Saviour of the world,
who in the perfect Trinity, lives and reigns. **Amen**

We wait for your loving-kindness, ¹O Lord,
in the midst ¹of your temple.

Open to us the gates of ¹righteousness,
that we may enter and give ¹thanks to the Lord.

God is the Lord who has shown ¹us light

Let us offer in God's dwelling an oblation ¹with great gladness.

Silence

Let us go forth ¹in peace.

In the Name of Christ. ¹Amen.

During the procession, all carry lighted candles; and the following hymn is sung.
Let Your Servants Now Go in Peace (NUNC DIMITTIS)

Nunc dimittis

Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, Do - mi - ne se -
cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in pa - ce. Do - mi - ne Nunc di -

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Additional lyrics adapted from Luke 2:29-32 by Daniel Melvill Jones

***Let your servants now go in peace, O Lord
Now go in peace according to Your word.***

- 1. For our eyes have seen your salvation, O Lord
Prepared before the face of all people.**
- 2. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
And the glory of your people Israel.**

The following psalm is chanted after the procession approaches the Chapel:

PSALM 122 (*Sung antiphonally*)



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- 1 I was glad when they said to | me; *
“Let us go to the house of the | Lord.”.
- 2 Now our feet are | standing *
within your gates, O Jer | usalem.
- 3 **Jerusalem is built as a | city ***
that is at unity with it | self.
- 4 **To which the tribes go up,**
the tribes of the | Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name of the | Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of | judgement, *
the thrones of the house of | David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jer | usalem: *
“May they prosper who | love you.
- 7 **Peace be within your | walls ***
and quietness within your | towers.
- 8 **For my breathers and companions’ | sake, ***
I pray for your pros | perity.

Repeat second half of chant

**9 Because of the house of the Lord our | God,*
I will seek to do you | good.”**

**Glory to the | Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy | Spirit:
As it was in the be | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. ’ A | men.**

The priest then declares the following:

Presider:

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 Evensong, 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 congregation is seated and the following hymn is sung, after which the congregation may extinguish their candles.

Phos Hilaron

(O Gracious Light)

Key of F



F Fmaj7 Gm F/A Fmaj7/A

O gra-cious Light, pure bright-ness of the ev-er-liv ing Fa-ther in heav'n

4 Bb Bb(add2) Gm Gm7 C7 F Bbm/F F

O Je-sus Christ, ho - ly and blessed!

9 Gm7 C C7/Bb A /B /C# Dm Dm7/C

Now as we come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be-hold the ves-per light,

13 G/B Bb Bbmaj7/A Gm7 C(sus4) C

we sing thy prais - es, O God: Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

F C /Bb F/A Am6 Bb

Thou art wor-thy at all times to be praised by hap-py voic - es, O Son of God,

21 F/C C(sus4) C

O Giv - er of life, and to be glo -

24 Gm7 C7 F Bbm/F F

- ri - fied through all the worlds.

Words: *Phos hilaron* | Evening Prayer I | BCP 1979 | verbatim

Music: Ryan Flanigan

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Psalm 84 (Sung antiphonally)



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- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of | hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of
the Lord; '
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living | God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her | young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my | God.
- 3 **Happy are they who dwell in your | house! ***
they will always be praising | you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in | you! ***
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' | way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find
it a place of | springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of | water.
- 6 They will climb from height to | height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in | Zion.
- 7 **Lord God of hosts, hear my | prayer; ***
hearken, O God of | Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O | God; ***
and look upon the face of your a | nointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than

a thousand in my own | room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the | wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and | shield; *
he will give grace and | glory;

11 **No good thing will the Lord with | hold ***
from those who walk with in | tegrity.

12 **O Lord of | hosts, ***
happy are they who put their trust in | you!

Glory to the | Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy | Spirit:

As it was in the be | ginning,

is now, and will be forever. ' A | men.

Silence

1 SAMUEL 1:20-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish your word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." And they worshiped the LORD there.

At the end of the reading is said or sung,

Hear what the Spirit is saying to ^lthe church.

Thanks ^lbe to God.

The congregation stands for the following hymn,

THE MAGNIFICAT (MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GLORY, LORD)

1 My soul pro - claims your glo - ry, Lord,
 2 Na - tions un - born will bless your name,
 3 You have made bare your might - y arm
 4 You fill the hun - gry mouths with food,
 5 Glo - ry to God, all be - ing's Spring,

my spir - it sings with thank - ful voice,
 giv - er of bound - less grace to me,
 to break the yoke of self - ish power,
 and show the pov - er - ty of wealth,
 to God the Word, sal - va - tion's voice,

for you my low - ly prayer have heard:
 in ev - ery age you are the same:
 and lift your bro - ken ones from harm,
 Your an - cient vow you have made good,
 to God the Spir - it, praise we sing:

in you, my Sav - iour, I re - joice.
 you make the hum - ble whole and free.
 burst - ing the gates of greed's proud tower.
 and raised your chil - dren to new health.
 with all the a - ges we re - joice.

Text: *Song of Mary* (Luke 1.46-56); para. Paul Gibson (1932-) ©.
 Music: John Hatton (?-1793).

LM
DUKE STREET

Cantor:

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal ¹nature.

¹Alleluia.

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with ¹the law.

¹Alleluia.

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations
and the glory of ¹Israel.

Alleluia.'

Praise to Christ, the light ¹of the world.

Deacon:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according ¹to Luke.

Glory ¹to you, O Lord.

LUKE 2:22-40

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 turtledoves 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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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.

Deacon:

This is the Gospel of ^lthe Lord.

Praise ^lto you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated for the following song:

Ch 1
v1
ch
v2
ch
v2
v1

Come Light Our Hearts

Words and Music by
Sandra McCracken

CHORUS

G C

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For

5 G C G

You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You,

3rd time to Coda ◊

VERSE

10 D G

tru - ly our hope is in You.

1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we

15 C D

shines on all who look to You in the dark. Em - man - u - el
find more than e - nough. We come as we are; O heal and re -

18 G D.C. al Coda

come, come light our hearts. For
-store, come light our hearts.

◊ Coda

21 G

You.

THE PRAYERS

The congregation is invited to take a posture of prayer.

Deacon:

Let us pray to our God through Christ
who is our light and life.

Creator, your Christ is acclaimed
as the glory of Israel:

look in mercy on your Church,
sharing ^lhis light.

Oh ^lLord, be our light.

Creator, your Christ in his temple brings
judgement on the world:

look in mercy on the nations,
who long for his ^ljustice.

Oh ^lLord, be our light.

Creator, your Christ, who was rich,
for our sakes became poor:

look in mercy on the needy, suffering ^lwith him.

Oh ^lLord, be our light.

Creator, your Christ is the one
in whom faithful servants find their peace:

look in mercy on the departed,
that they may see your sal^lvation.

Oh ^lLord, be our light.

Creator, your Christ is revealed
as the one destined to be rejected:

look in mercy on us
who now turn towards his ^lpassion.

Oh ^lLord, be our light.

Lord God,

you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,
and showed them the infant King.

Give us grace

to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ ^lour Lord.

Oh Lord, be our light. ^lAmen.

Silence

THE COLLECTS

Presider:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have sent us your salvation.

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit
to recognize him who is the glory of Israel
and the light for all nations,
your son Jesus Christ ^lour Lord. **^lAmen.**

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ^lever. **^lAmen.**

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son
our Saviour Jesus ^lChrist. **Amen.**

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray in the language closest to our hearts

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

FINAL RESPONSORY

This may be said or sung,

Father, we have sung your praise
with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts ^ltoday.

Praise to ^lChrist our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust ^lyour 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.

Then may be sung,

Let Your Servants Now Go in Peace (NUNC DIMITTIS)

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Additional lyrics adapted from Luke 2:29-32 by Daniel Melvill Jones

Nunc dimittis

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 68. The lyrics are: 'Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, Do - mi - ne se - cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in - pa - ce. Do - mi - ne Nunc di -'.

Let your servants now go in peace, O Lord

Now go in peace according to Your word.

1. For our eyes have seen your salvation, O Lord

Prepared before the face of all people.

2. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles

And the glory of your people Israel.

Let your servants now go in peace, O Lord

Now go in peace according to Your word.

The priest may conclude with the following blessing:

Presider:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path. **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please leave the chapel in silence to allow space for prayer and contemplation.

Join us for a crêpe dinner in the Narthex.

Text adapted by Daniel Melvill Jones from

*The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada
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and*

The Church of England

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons>)