



Sharing the Feast of Life at Candlemas

Welcome by ministry team member

In darkness the minister lights a candle, from which we light our candles during this chant:

**Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away.**

Gathering

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:

A light no darkness can quench.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

Light has come into the world:

A light no darkness can quench.

The light exposes the deeds of evil:

A light no darkness can quench.

The light reveals to us the way we should go:

A light no darkness can quench.

The light shines that we might live by its goodness:

A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:

A light no darkness can quench.

Opening hymn

Reconciliation

We acknowledge the pain and hurt of our world, and our part in that pain, and we seek to know God's forgiveness and healing:

We have wounded your love:

O God, forgive and heal us.

We stumble in the darkness:

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home:

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

We extinguish our candles.

2-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell

Forgiveness

The prophet Isaiah said:

'Can a woman forget the infant at her breast,
Or a mother the child of her womb?
As a mother comforts her child,
So I will comfort you, says the Lord.'

Sisters and brothers, Christ sets you free:
journey on with hope.

We live in God's love, healing and forgiveness.

Let us forgive and love ourselves:

Let us forgive and love others, and seek peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.

To God be glory for ever.

To God be glory for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.

To Christ be glory for ever.

To Christ be glory for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.

Give us your freedom for ever.

Give us your freedom for ever.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Alleluia, Amen.

Prayer for the Day

... after which the president sends the children out to Kids' Church, accompanied by a member of the adult congregation carrying the Kids' Church lamp.

Ministry of the Word

First reading

At the end of the first reading the reader says:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn

The Gospel

Before the Gospel reading the reader says:

The Gospel reading is from ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon or other reflection

5-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell

Affirmation of Faith

We believe you are creating,

Animating all that lives.

Universal grace pulsating,

You, O God, the one who gives.

You are meaning, mystery, glory,

You are the fire, you the dove;

You in Jesus live your story,

Risk the nature of your love.

Jesus is divine engaging

With the pain of human strife.

Jesus is divine upstaging

Of our death by risen life –

Life your inexhaustible Spirit

Wills to ignite in what we do:

Willing us to each inherit

Justice-laden peace with you.

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

The Peace

We sing:

**Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.**

Music is played as the children return and bring up the bread and wine for the president, lining up together in front of the altar.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We share a sign of Peace and gather round the altar.

The Preparation of the Gifts

The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:

Blessed be God for ever.

Thanksgiving Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister offers our thanks and praise, after which we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heaven and earth adored,
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy, holy Lord.**

The minister says the words of institution, after which we sing:

**When we share this broken bread,
When we share this common cup,
Jesus, we proclaim your death:
Come in glory, come, Lord, come.**

Spirit of God, come afresh on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that they may make us one body in Christ.

Open our eyes
that we may recognise you walking with us;

Open our ears and our minds
that we may hear your word;

Open our hearts
**that your love may flow through us
and bring the blessing of new life to all we meet;**

For you are the God who makes all things new,
and surprises us into understanding.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

O God in heaven,
**Mother and Father of us all,
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.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread ... [x4]

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

We sing:

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace.

Invitation

The minister invites all to receive Communion.

The Communion

As each person receives the bread and wine:

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**

The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

*After receiving, anyone who wishes may go to receive prayer
for healing and then return to the circle or to their seat.*

*We remain around the altar until everyone has received
communion, and then return to our seats. We wait in
silence or with chanting/music until the prayers for
healing are finished.*

Prayer after Communion

Starmaker God,

Lightener of the world,

bless us and warm us

into light and loving.

Bring us to the light of Jesus

all the length and breadth

of our nights and days.

Amen.

Kids' Church may share what they have been doing.

Final hymn

Blessing

Christ, as a light, illumine and guide you,
Christ, as a shield, o'ershadow and cover you,
in light defeating darkness,
in wisdom conquering foolishness,
in trust overcoming fearfulness.

The Light of Christ has come into the world:

A light no darkness can quench.

Notices

Dismissal

Go, shine as a light in the world:

To the glory of God. Amen.