A Candlemas Zoom Litany for Southwark

A liturgy for a shared act of worship conducted via video conference suitable for use at Candlemas, with an emphasis on themes of hope and connection with others.

It will work best if conducted after dark. Members of the congregation should be asked to turn off lights, and to turn down screen illumination.

In preparation, each member of the congregation should place a candle in a stable position visible to their web cam, and have a box of matches or lighter to hand.

Each member should receive a copy of the litany, and instructed which suffrage or suffrages they should say. Once finalised for the particular occasion, the suffrages could be numbered to make this easier.

THE GREETING

*Leader* O God make speed to save us.

*All* O Lord make haste to help us.

*Leader* In the name of the Father

*All* and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Some informal words of welcome may be said.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

[a short penitential rite? Anyone want to compose some suitable Kyries? On themes of light – repenting our failure to shed light, love, hope etc??]

*Leader* Lord, have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

*Leader* Christ, have mercy.

*All* Christ, have mercy.

*Leader* Lord, have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

The Leader prays for, or pronounces the, Absolution and all respond:

Amen.

THE COLLECT

Leader Let us pray.

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 ever.

*All* Amen.

READINGS

*Reader* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

22 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 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), 24 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.’

25 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. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 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, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

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

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 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 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

36 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, 37 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. 38 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.

Other suitable Scriptures may be read

[Anyone want to come up with a suggested list? John 1, naturally]

HOMILY or Reflection

Litany Of Candlelighting

The basic structure of this section is a series of suffrages with a short communal response. Each suffrage is assigned to a member of the congregation. The person saying the suffrage should first light a candle, allowing a moment for reflection, and then say the suffrage, to which all respond.

Depending on the temper and needs of the congregation, it may be appropriate to pray for individual members of the congregation, or the departed, by name; to pray for neighbouring Churches; to pray for Deaneries and / or Boroughs in the Diocese; to pray for streets in the Parish, or local institutions. Other variations will occur and should be included. The hope is to combine local concerns with prayer for the wider Church.

*Leader* Let us pray

God the Father,

*All* have mercy upon us.

*Leader* God the Son,

*All* have mercy upon us.

*Leader* God the Holy Spirit,

*All* have mercy upon us.

*Leader* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

*All* have mercy upon us.

PArish

A candle is lit…

*1* In our hearts,  
in the lives of our families and friends,  
in our Church, O Christ  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*2* In the streets of [our Parish – insert place name],  
in shops and schools [or insert other local places]  
and in the hearts of all your people,  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*3* Where doors have to be closed  
and lights turned off,  
in the places we cannot go together,  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit (this suffrage may be repeated several times with suitable variations)…

*4* In [insert significant local places]  
in [insert significant local places]  
in [insert significant local places – possibly including, e.g. “on the banks of…” “on either side of…” *etc*]  
**let your light shine**

It might be appropriate to choose one or the other of the next two

Local Authorities

Another candle is lit…

*5* In Kingston and Richmond,  
in Wandsworth and Merton,  
in Lambeth and Southwark,  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*6* In Lewisham and Greenwich,  
in Bromley and Bexley,  
in Croydon and Sutton  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*7* In Mole Valley,  
in Reigate and Banstead, and  
in Tandridge  
**let your light shine**

Local Authorities

Another candle is lit…

*8* On our brothers and sisters  
in the Deaneries of Merton,  
Lambeth North, and Lambeth South,   
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*9* In the hearts of all who worship you in   
Richmond & Barnes,  
Kingston-upon-Thames,   
Wandsworth, Battersea and Tooting  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*9* In the life and witness of Parishes in  
Southwark & Newington,  
Bermondsey, Camberwell, and Dulwich,   
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*10* In the prayerful hearts of your children in  
Deptford, Charlton, Plumstead,  
Eltham & Mottingham,  
West Lewisham, and East Lewisham  
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*11* In worship and prayer throughout  
Croydon North, Croydon Central,  
Croydon Addington, and Croydon South   
**let your light shine**

Another candle is lit…

*12* Among all the joys and sorrows of your children   
in the Deaneries of   
Sutton, Reigate, and Tandridge  
**let your light shine**

[Here the manuscript breaks off. Engels.]