
A C a n d l e m a s Z o o m L i t a n y f o r S o u t h w a r k

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

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

speaking about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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 – 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

CLOSING PRAYERS

Leader Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All **Amen.**

All **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us and those whom we love
evermore.
Amen.**