

Worship in Song

You have called us out of darkest night

Countdown & Welcome

Words of Introduction

Today we remember the presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after his birth. In the Bible reading we hear how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord and how two prophets, Simeon and Anna, who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah, recognised Jesus as God's salvation for both Jews and Gentiles. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed him and uttered a prayer that we now call the 'Nunc Dimittis'. Let us say this prayer together:

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Worship in Song

Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery
King of the ages, by angels adored
Power and authority, splendour and dignity
Bow to his mastery, Jesus is Lord

Child of our destiny, God from eternity
Love of the Father, on sinners outpoured
See now what God has done, sending his only Son
Christ the beloved One, Jesus is Lord

Saviour of Calvary, costliest victory
Darkness defeated, and Eden restored
Born as a man to die, nailed to a cross on high
Cold in the grave to lie, Jesus is Lord

Source of all sovereignty, light immortality
Life everlasting, and heaven assured
So with the ransomed we - praise him eternally
Christ in his majesty, Jesus is Lord

Confession

Our Saviour Jesus Christ said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life". Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

May God the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today

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. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Luke 2.22-40 (*Church Bible page 857*)

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Worship in Song

You have called us out of darkest night
Into your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy with endless life

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes that we may praise
May praise the name of Jesus

All the earth is yours and all within
Each harvest is your own
And from your hand we give to you
To make Christ known

May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread your Word

This our holy privilege to declare
Your praises and your name
To every nation tribe and tongue
Your church proclaim

Holy holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise your glorious Name

Reflection

Like Simeon, may I grow old in hope and wonder.
Like Anna, may I be in love with you all my days.
May I be open to truth, open to surprises.
May I let your spirit into my life.
May I let your justice change my behaviour.
May I live in the brightness of your joy. **Amen.**

An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant. Through your love, make us servants of one another. Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness. **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory. **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory. **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight. **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high. **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Worship in Song

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee Lord
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word.

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord to me
Thy holy word the truth that saveth me
Give me to eat and live with thee above
Teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me
That he may touch my eyes and make me see
Show me the truth concealed within thy word
And in thy book revealed, I see thee, Lord.

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Worship in Song

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

This the power of the cross Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Every bitter thought every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows his head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the victory cry

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through your selfless love

This the power of the cross Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

Worship in Song

Through every trial, through every fear
Through every tear we can't conceal
God we look to you
Through every storm, through every pain
Through every grief we can't explain
God we look to you

You became a Man of Sorrows
that we might know joy
You have treasured every tear drop
And said that you'd restore
You will not forget your people
You'll make all things new
Until you do we choose to trust in you

You are our hope, you are our strength
You are the anchor in the depths
God we look to you
You will return, you will sustain
You will bring joy we can't contain
Come Lord Jesus come

Bridge

You will make all things new,
Until you do we choose to trust in you
You will make all things new
Until you do we choose to worship you

Prayer after Communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and
Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may
we, who have received these gifts beyond
words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he
comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive
and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

How good it is to sing, to bring our praise to him
Whose love and mercy knows no end
He brings the sun and rain, he calls each star by name
The universe resounds with praise

O shout for joy to God and sing a new song
Extol the Lord of life for his provision
And he delights in those who love and fear him
All those who put their hope in God

He gathers families, orphans and refugees
And binds the wounds of those who mourn
The humble lifted high, the proud He casts aside
His justice faithful as the dawn

What friend or foe can last, before his icy blast
The winds and waves obey his voice
Yet mercy will prevail, his love will reconcile
The nations of the earth to him

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary, fill
you with his grace to trust his promises and
obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
with you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music as we leave

Through every trial, through every fear