**The Alde River Benefice– Candlemas 2021**

**¶ The Gathering**

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Greeting**

 The Lord of glory be with you.

*All* **The Lord bless you.**

 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 Eucharist, 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.

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* **Glory to God in the highest,** *sung* **and peace to his people on earth.**

 **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

 **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

 **For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

**The Collect**

 Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,

 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.**

 **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading**

 *At the end the reader says*

 This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Gospel Reading**

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

*All sing* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

 *at the end the reader say’s*

 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 *All sing* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

 **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

 Lord, in your mercy *(or)* Lord, hear your people

*All* **hear our prayer. and answer our prayers.**

 *at the end the president says*

 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 our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: ‘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.

*All* **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.**

**Absolution**

 Almighty God,

 who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,

 pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

 and keep you in life eternal;

 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

 **¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

 In the tender mercy of our God,

 the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,

 to give light to those who dwell in darkness

 and the shadow of death,

 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

 The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

 Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Hymn**

**Preparation of the Table**

**Taking of the Bread and Wine**

 *The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

 *The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

 Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
 accept the offering of your Church

 and grant that Christ may shine in us
 to the praise and glory of your name.
*All* **Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

 The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the

light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother’s heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

*All***Holy, holy, holy Lord,** *sung*

 **God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

 We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

 Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*All* **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

 Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

 Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary the Blessed Virgin and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

 Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

 all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All***Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;**

 **thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

 We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

**Agnus Dei**

*All* **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,** *sung* **have mercy on us.**

 **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

 **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

**Giving of Communion**

 God’s holy gifts
for God’s holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

 *The president and people receive communion.*

The body of Christ.
The blood of Christ.

**Hymn**

**Prayer**

*The congregation are asked to hold their candles up as the president blesses the light.*

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,

*All* **Amen.**

 *The president says*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

Your light shines on us and all peoples shall see your glory.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever**

 You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;

 he makes our darkness to be light.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever**

 Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,

 bearing witness to your truth.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever**

 As we bear your light,

 may our lips never cease to sing your praise

*All*  **Blessed be God for ever**

 Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever**

**Anthem**

**Final Responsory**

 Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:

 may Christ be born in our hearts today.

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;

 help us, like them, to trust your word.

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;

 may we be filled with the light of your love.

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

**¶ The Conclusion**

 We stand near the place of new birth.

*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We turn from the crib to the cross.

*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

 We go to carry his light.

*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love. Thanks be to God.**

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