

Sunday February 2nd, 2025
Candlemas



Our Mission

*To be a diverse ministering community
making Christ's presence known
in the world around us.*

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 St. George's Church: 1089 Highway 277, Dutch Settlement

11:00 Christ Church: 14 Church St., Lantz

Parish Clergy

Rev'd Dr. Jane Magrath

Rev'd Patty McKenna

Call to Worship:

This feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple came to be called by the shorter and more beautiful name of *Candlemas* because the day it celebrates, recorded in Luke 2:22-40, is the day the old man Simeon took the baby in his arms and recognized him as ‘A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.’ It became the custom of the church to light a central candle and bring it to the altar to represent the Christ-light, and also on the occasion of this feast to bless all the ‘lights’ or candles in the church, praying that all who saw that outward and visible light would remember also and be blessed by the inner light of Christ ‘who lightens everyone who comes into the world.’

Candlemas is the day we realize that eternity can come into time and touch us in the form of a tiny child, that God appears at last in His Temple, not as a transcendent overlord, but as a vulnerable pilgrim, coming in His Love to walk the road of life along side us.

(lighting of the candles)

The Lord is the strength of my life,

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

A light which no darkness can quench.

Today we celebrate with a feast of candles the one who is the Light from whom the light shone in the darkness at the beginning of creation, who was born as “a light to enlighten the Gentiles,” and who even now brings light which no darkness shall ever overcome.

Come, Holy one, light of the world! Amen

Collect for Purity:

Almighty God **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *God is Here* (CP# 428)

**God is here! As we your people; Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure; What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us; All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit; Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us; Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font and pulpit; Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching; Here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal; God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom; In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the Gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication; All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you; We adore you! We believe!**

The Collect:

Blessed are you, O God, source and spring of everlasting light. You make our darkness bright as the noonday, for with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendor, that we, who by these kindling flames illumine this temple to his glory, may shine with his radiance, dispelling the darkness of injustice with the light of his righteousness. **Amen**

Prayer for Illumination:

May your word be a light to guide us in this world – may it be a lamp that goes before us. Amen

Proclamation of the Word:

The First Reading: A Reading from the Prophet Malachi (3:1-4)

After the reading: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading: Candlemas Prayer (by Ann Lewin)

The Gospel:

God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Luke (2:22-40)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading: The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: (Standing)

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of humans in all their glorious diversity.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, he died alone and forsaken.
He descended into the earth; to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. **Amen**

Prayers of the People:

We pray for the church, the world, our community, and those known to us, remembering especially those in particular need. Let us respond to 'Show us your ways' with 'and help us to walk in them.'

Confession & Absolution:

Call to Confession

As we remember how Jesus was presented as a baby in the Temple, we remember Simeon's declaration that he is the Light of the World. We have experienced so much darkness within ourselves and within our world. We ask for your light to dispel the darkness and guide us to life. Increase the small flames you have created in our lives that we might bring your light into the darkness. **Amen.**

Confession:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness:

Loving God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrations:

O God, our times are in your hand: look with favour, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exchanging of the Peace:

May you bring the peace which the Spirit brings: a peace rooted in love, patience and self-control, shaped by kindness, generosity and faithfulness, marked by gentleness, and crowned with joy.
Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

The Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people; light for the world to see.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.
(bit of a diddly diddly)

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others; shared until all are fed.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others; walls made of living stone.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people; many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another; making your kingdom come.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.
Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Creator God, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you; and grant that Christ may shine in us – to the praise and glory of your name.

Eucharistic Prayer (ACC: Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 1)

May God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise;
for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us and place the song of
your Spirit in our hearts. When we turn from your love and defile the earth,
you do not abandon us. Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah,

through prophets, sages, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory saying:

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

Gracious God: in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you. Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life, Jesus knew death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts that we bring to you: this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies, that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.
The gifts of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

Music at Communion: *Various Nuncs*

Announcements:

As Jesus calls us as disciples, God sends us out to serve others in the world. Let us share with one another the events of our parish and community this week.

Blessing of the Candles

We give You thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; You have commanded us to show Your splendor to our children; and You have invited us to praise You with lives of love, justice, and joy. Send Your blessing on these candles for our homes which we set apart today; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

(Blessing of the candles)

Gathered in the waters of baptism, we end the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child. **God, born in us, grace us with life that has no end.**

Gathered round God's table, we have cradled the Christ-child in our hands.

God, born in us, make us bread for the hungry.

Gathered in sanctuary with faithful Simeon and Anna, we have sung praises to the Christ-child. **God, born in us, inspire us to trust Your eternal promises.**

Gathered in light, we have seen the Christ-child.

God, born in us, make us always bear You, the light of the world.

AMEN

Glory to God -- **Whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing:

May Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your hearts. May Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. And may the blessing of God: Creator, Word, and Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: *Praise the One* (CP# 397)

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness; with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris'ners; turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands; with the very word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children; with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the one who drove out demons; with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water; to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

Praise the one true Love incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;
praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Dismissal:

Let us go out to shine the light of Christ in our world. **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia!

Parish Notices and Announcements- see insert at back of church

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

World: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
Diocese: Christ Church, Cherry Valley, Prince Edward Island
vacant

Read Your Bible:

Mon- Isaiah 6:1-13	Tue- 2 Chr 26:1-15	Wed- 2 Chr 26:16-23
Thu- Psalm 16	Fri- Psalm 138	Sat- 1 Cor. 15:1-11
	Sun- Luke 5:1-11	

Next Sunday's Readings: ISAIAH 6:1-8 (9-13); PSALM 138; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; LUKE 5:1-11

What's Happening in the Parish- What Do We Need to Know?

- Prayer Ministry - Prayer Chain

If you, or someone you know would like to be put on the prayer list, please send information to carolyn.mcnally@ns.sympatico.ca

- **Choir Practice:** Our next choir practice will be Tue Feb 4th, 7pm @ Christ Church.

- **Saturday Music Jam:** The next jam will be on Sat 01 Mar from 1-3pm at Christ Church

- **Food Bank Sunday:** Our next Food Bank Sunday is 02 Mar, 2025.

- **Sunday March 2** There will be ONE parish service at St. George's (9:30), followed by the Annual General Meeting. Please send Rev. Jane your reports by the end of January.

Contact Information

Parish Phone: (902) 883-2898; **Email:** jane.magrath@gmail.com
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For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Jane, directly.