



Welcome to worship on Candlemas!

28 January 2024, 10am

“Living sacrifices”

Welcome

Praise the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God.

Lord, open our lips
and we shall praise your name.

Song (1039)

¹Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

²Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Chorus

³Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, his Spirit is near.

Chorus

(Sue McClellan, John Paculabo, Keith Rycroft)

Song (936)

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
Teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence,
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
Teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
Teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

¹You wrote the rhythm of life,
Created heaven and earth;
In you is joy without measure.
So, like a child in your sight,
I dance to see your delight,
For I was made for your pleasure,
Pleasure.

Chorus.

²Let all my movements express
A heart that loves to say 'yes',
A will that leaps to obey you.
Let all my energy blaze
To see the joy in your face;
Let my whole being praise you,
Praise you.

Chorus.

(Graham Kendrick and Steve Thompson)

Song (887)

Lord, you have my heart,
And I will search for yours;
Jesus, take my life and lead me on.
Lord, you have my heart,
And I will search for yours;
Let me be to you a sacrifice.

Men: And I will praise you, Lord.
Women: I will praise you, Lord.
Men: And I will sing of love come down.
Women: I will sing of love come down.
Men: And as you show your face,
Women: Show your face,
All: We'll see your glory here.

(Martin J. Smith)

Confession

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Absolution

Collect for Candlemas

Prayer for Sonlight

Mission update – Chris Fox from EPIC (European Partners in Christ)

Song (not in MP)

¹All I have and all I am is yours
There's nothing that I have on earth
That doesn't come from you.
I lay aside my pride and worldly worth;
To serve you is the greatest thing
That I could ever do.

Chorus:

*For unless you build this house,
I am building it in vain.
Unless the work is yours,
There is nothing to be gained.
I want something that will stand
When your holy fire comes;
Something that will last,
And to hear you say 'well done',
Giving glory to you, Lord,
Glory to you, Lord.*

²So easy to desire what others have,
Instead of seeing all the gifts that you have given me.
So help me fan the flame which you began,
And burn in me a love for you that all will clearly see.

Chorus.

(Lou Fellingham)

Readings

Psalm 48

¹ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
³ Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defence.

⁴ Then the kings assembled,
they came on together.
⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;
⁶ trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labour,
⁷ as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
⁸ As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes for ever.
⁹ We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
¹⁰ Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad,
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgements.
¹² Walk about Zion, go all around it,
count its towers,
¹³ consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
¹⁴ that this is God,
our God for ever and ever.
He will be our guide for ever.

Romans 12:1-5

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon (shortened)

Song (1076)

¹Jesus, be the Centre,
Be my source, be my light,
Jesus.

²Jesus, be the Centre,
Be my hope, be my song,
Jesus.

(Michael Frye)

Chorus:
Be the fire in my heart,
Be the wind in these sails;
Be the reason that I live,
Jesus, Jesus.

³Jesus, be my vision,
Be my path, be my guide,
Jesus.

Thanksgiving for our offering

Affirmation of faith

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers

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.

Notices and family news

Hymn (428)

¹Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

²Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

³Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

⁴Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

⁵Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

(Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Blessing

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.

Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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