

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 30th Jan 2022, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Old Testament: Ezekiel 43:27- 44: 4

Psalm: Psalm 48

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd. David Campbell

Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the great day of revelation, the last day of the Church's Christmas celebrations, is now almost upon us. On this day we recall with Luke's Gospel Jesus being brought into the Temple in Jerusalem as a mere 40 days-old baby, meekly carried into the epicentre of the Jewish faith in his mother's arms.

Luke includes three ritual ceremonies in his account: the purification of the mother Mary, in keeping with the law of Moses, the redemption of the first-born of Israel, and then, in a scene so reminiscent of the story of the boy Samuel from ten long centuries before, the actual presentation and dedication of the child to the service of God.

When the parents arrive with Jesus in the Temple to do with him as the Torah demanded, the vintage Simeon comes and acknowledges Jesus to be the Christ. It is apparent that this is the moment Simeon has been waiting for all his life, and he bursts into joyous song in those words which will be forever associated with him. The traditional language translation of his words is so hauntingly beautiful:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

And for us the challenge of this story is clear. When and in what ways will we dedicate ourselves to the service of God in our time?

Collect for The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

