

A Thought for Epiphany 4

31st January - Candlemas

Luke 2:22-40

This is a turning point in our Christian year as we now look towards the cross.

Today we celebrate three occasions the Virgin Mary's purification; Jesus' first entry into the Temple and where Jesus is offered to the Father.

God reveals to two faithful, praying old people, Simeon and Anna, who Jesus is. They had waited all their lives to see this promised child and they announce it to the world and give prophecies for His future.

Here Simeon says Jesus will be *'A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel.'*

In many places in the New Testament Jesus is known as a light to the world. Jesus gives us Knowledge that God cares and does not let us down, Knowledge that God's love sent Him to the cross to free us from the penalties of sin, Knowledge that we are never alone as He is by us and will help us if we ask Him.

Today in our world there is a lot of pain and darkness, we need hope. As a follower of Jesus we are declared as lights (Matthew 5:14) so spread hope and light into our weary world that needs Christian Hope so much.

On Candlemas day (2nd February) light a candle to thank Jesus for bringing hope and light into your life and spread this good news to others.

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

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

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

We stand near the place of new birth. We turn from the crib to the cross. We go to carry his light.

Let us shine with the light of Christ's love and pass this light and love to others. Amen



Revd Sarah Wyman