



## Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**Candlemas**

On this feast of Candlemas we hear the famous words of Simeon, said each day at Compline as the Nunc Dimittis:

'Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.  
A light to reveal you to the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

They're words of readiness for death having seen the light of Christ. And so perhaps we might reflect this Candlemas on the darkness of death and the light of life.

In his famous poem, Dylan Thomas takes up those same themes as he urges us: '*Do not go gentle into that good night/Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*' And perhaps those words show our gut instinct in the face of death. Death is the final darkness that negates the light of life, it's the ultimate denial, the great nothingness, that is to be resisted with all our strength. And because of this life is to be lived with as much passion and energy as we can give it. All that will last is the fading shadow of whatever our light illumined, so the brighter we burn the longer we'll live on.

There's much to applaud in this vision of death and life. It understands how priceless life is, it wants to cling with every ounce of strength to what's good in it. It looks on the darkness of death, and with a great cry of resistance, turns towards life. But it's worth noticing how different a view that is to Simeon's.

Instead of this raging resistance, Simeon takes the child Christ in his arms, and sees light - and in that light he prays his prayer of readiness for death. Simeon sees, in that moment, the fundamental truth at the heart of our faith: that the light of life shines brighter than the darkness of death. That, despite what Dylan Thomas may say, the light doesn't die. The light shines on because the darkness has not, will not, and cannot, overcome it. As Simeon sees that light, he is able to entrust something as precious as even his own death into God's hands. Perhaps as we too 'see the salvation' of God, we can entrust our life and death to the light of life that we see in Christ.

### **Malachi 3.1-5**

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### **Luke 2.22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This

child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## **TODAY**

**9:30am: Candlemas:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Mr Bernie Troughton lead our service with readings from Malachi 3.1-5 and Luke 2.22-40

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

**Thurs** 2:00pm: **Prayer and Praise**

8:00pm: **Men's Group:** Talk by David Down 'Good Lord, Mayor'

**Sat** 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** 8:00am: Said Holy Communion: Church

9:30am **Eco Family Service:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads Eco our family service with readings from Genesis 1.1-2.3, Roman 8.18-25, Matthew 6.25-34

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm: **Funeral of Margery Scott**

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm: **Lunch Group**

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm: **Film Club**

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/Candlemas23>

**ZOOM CODES** – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

**BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS:** if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

**USED STAMPS** – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

**CHURCH OPENING** – church is open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

**FOOD BANK** – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

**DONATIONS** - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

### ***For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer***

**For the church** – Churches in our Deanery: Centre of Newcastle Parishes and City Centre Chaplaincy, sidespeople, our Saturday Café, and all involved in our ministry of welcome

**For the community** – Uniformed groups

**For the world** – for Ukraine, Pakistan and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg

**For those who have died** – Margery Scott, Kenneth Thompson and on their anniversaries: Albert Surtees, Ian Jamieson, David Fraser Denmark, Albert Robottom, Baden Robson, Doreen Carrick, Kenneth Brown, John Allen, Colin Weatherall, Lew Edwards, Stanley Taws, Barbara Elsdon , Joyce Rickaby, Sarah Scott, Hannah Lloyd, Catherine McKeating, Roland Hardy



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