

# Daily Prayer

## *The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*

*Wednesday, February 2, 2022*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys—and remember the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*

*We begin by saying*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
King of the universe.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Your light shines on us  
and all peoples shall see your glory.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;  
he makes our darkness to be light.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,  
bearing witness to your truth.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

As we bear your light,  
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The First Reading

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.

*Malachi 3.1-4*

## The Psalm

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! ♦  
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: ♦  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house: ♦  
they will always be praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, ♦  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion,

Who going through the barren valley find there a spring, ♦  
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.

They will go from strength to strength ♦  
and appear before God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; ♦  
listen, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God, ♦  
and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts ♦  
is better than a thousand.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God ♦  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield;  
he will give grace and glory; ♦  
no good thing shall the Lord withhold  
from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord God of hosts, ♦  
blessed are those who put their trust in you.

*Psalm 84*

## **The Gospel Reading**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 turtledoves 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 for 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.

*Luke 2.22-40*

*We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

## The Reflection

*Andrew Kubl*

Today's gospel reading jumps us back in the story of Luke to Jesus's infancy. So many weeks after Christmas we have been hearing about Jesus' early ministry, and now we jump back. This first visit of Jesus to the temple follows right after the story of Jesus' birth and in typical style of Luke it points to several important things in Jesus' ministry and his mission.

The voices of Simeon and Anna echo each other as they proclaim the messiah and his coming redemption. The *Nunc Dimittis*, the song of Simeon points to the great reality of Epiphany, that Jesus has come as a light for the gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel (Luke 2:32). Anna's words while not recorded specifically speak of this Child in relation to the redemption of Jerusalem.

But tucked between these two exclamations of praise and celebration of Jesus the Messiah who arrived in the temple, is a word given to Mary as a strange blessing from Simeon. "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." (Luke 2:34-35)

This strange blessing seems to sit at the heart of Luke's gospel, the gospel is going to bring surprising changes, there will be those who will fall and rise in Israel. But more importantly for us, is the exposing of the inner thoughts of many.

The gospel should expose the details of our inner thoughts, an encounter with Jesus should not just change who we are and how we act externally, but rather should create an inner transformation. It should unveil the inner workings of our hearts and minds and ask if they are in line with the coming reign of God. In the encounter with Jesus the Son of God, the Christ, God acts to transform us to

become the people they call us to be.

As we journey this year with the gospel of Luke as our primary texts, pay attention to the ways that the encounter with Jesus challenges the inner thoughts. See how your thoughts align with your actions in the world, and take the risk to allow the deeply hidden inner thoughts to be seen and approached by our God who longs for us to truly be transformed.

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## **The Canticle ~ 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.

*Luke 2.29-32*

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

## **The Intercessions**

For all the peoples of the world;  
that they may know you as the God of peace,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For nations, for leaders and governments;  
that integrity may mark all their dealings,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who labour for righteousness;  
that your presence and help may give them courage,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities torn by dissension and strife;  
that your forgiveness may bring them healing,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved;  
that consolation and peace may be theirs,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, your household and family;  
that she may be firm in the confession of her hope,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are separated from us by death;  
that theirs may be the kingdom which is unshakeable,  
we pray to you,  
Lord, hear our prayer.

O God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great Shepherd of the sheep:  
make us perfect in all goodness to do your will  
and to be what you would have us be;  
through him to whom be glory for ever,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

God of all nations,  
whose servant Simeon saw in the child Jesus the revelation of your  
ancient promises,  
and whose servant Anna spoke of his truth to all who were seeking  
redemption,  
stir up within us your gift of faith,  
that our eyes may see our salvation in Jesus Christ  
and our lives be turned to his service,  
in words of conviction and deeds of compassion,  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

We stand near the place of new birth.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
We turn from the crib to the cross.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
We go to carry his light.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**



Credits:

Scripture quotations: The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

The Psalm: Common Worship: Psalter © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Canticle: Common Worship: Canticles © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Intercessions: Scottish Episcopal Church—Form 1 (adapted)

The Collect: The Canterbury Book of New Parish Prayers © 2021, M. M. Kramer, Canterbury Press

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Candlemas. © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The reflection: The Rev'd Andrew Kuhl

# Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

[office@theredeemer.ca](mailto:office@theredeemer.ca)

[www.TheRedeemer.ca](http://www.TheRedeemer.ca)

Twitter: @theRedeemerTO

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO