

At a meeting of both select vestries last Monday, it was decided, in light of the numbers of COVID cases and the concerns expressed by parishioners, to continue with the current measures and service times until the end of February when there will be a further full review. Your opinions on how we go forward would be welcome and will be taken into consideration at that review.

Face Masks

The government guidelines still require us to wear a face mask in church, covering your mouth and nose. It has been indicated that this will be reviewed at the end of February. Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading.

Social Distancing

The government has announced that social-distancing is no longer required, however, a number of people have indicated that they would still like to have a little space. There is always plenty of space at the front of the church!!! I would ask people to respect others' need for space.

Contact Tracing

We are no longer required get the contact details of attendees.

Singing

We are allowed to sing again! Now, that is a delight! No longer will you have to listen to my solo efforts!



Greeting

*Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.*

Hymn No. 203 (Lourdes)

[During this hymn, the congregational candles will be lit.]

1. When candles are lighted on
Candlemas Day,
the dark is behind us and spring's on
the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of
grace.*

2. The kings have departed, the
shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on
their own.

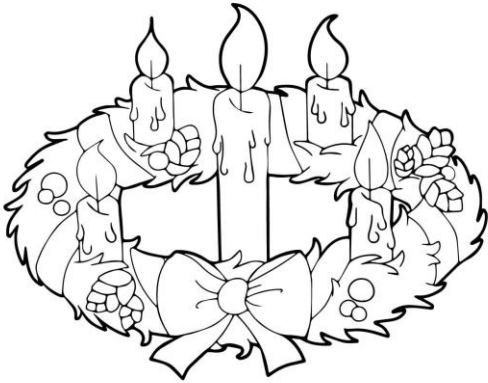
3. They go to the temple, obeying the
law,
And offer two pigeons, the gift of the
poor.

4. But Anna and Simeon recognise
there
The Christ-child who came at the turn
of the year.

12. Like Anna, like Simeon, may we
have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus and peace at
the last.

13. The candles invite us to praise and
to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on
Candlemas Day.

*[Silence while the candles on the Advent
Wreath are lit for the last time.]*



SUPER
COLORING

Opening Responses

*As God's people we have gathered:
let us worship him together.*

*Like Simeon,
may we grow old in hope and in
wonder.*

*Like Anna,
may we be in love with you all our
days.*

*May we be open to truth,
open to surprises.
May we let your Spirit into our
lives.*

*May we let your justice change our
behaviour.*

*May we live in the brightness of
your joy.*

Thoughts for Candlemas

*Living and dying,
striving for holiness and justice,
accepting forgiveness and
affirmation,
living with the questions and the
mystery,
trusting in hope of home and the glory
and light of the resurrection - these
are the elements of life and loving
that dance and burn in the candles of
Candlemas.*

*And these are the candles that are
offered to us that,
lit by God's bright fire,
we may be light and warmth for God's
world.*

*Starmaker God,
Lightener of the world,
bless us
and warm us
into light and loving.
Bring us to the light of Jesus
all the length and breadth
of our nights and days.*

*You have found me.
I have seen you.
Daily I know you
cherishing me.*

*Kindle and draw me
into the light of your loving
every night and day
of my journey home.*

*As the candle,
so my life;
flickering, burning, changing,
alight and warm
with the light
which is you.*

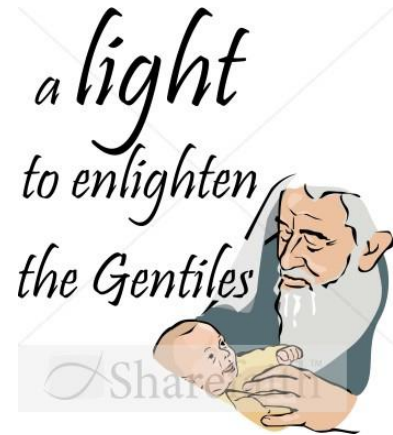
The Collect of the 4th Sunday after
the Epiphany

Creator God,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of
darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious
gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance
and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your
people,
and reveal the knowledge of your
glory
in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Presentation of Christ in The
Temple - 2nd February

Almighty and everliving God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the temple

in the substance of our mortal nature:
may we be presented to you with pure
and clean hearts,
by your Song Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),²⁴ 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.'

25 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.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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



[At the end of the Nunc Dimittis, the candles are extinguished and the lights put on.]

The Nunc Dimittis - The Song of Simeon - from Luke 2: 29-32

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de|part in | peace:
ac|cording | to thy | word.
2 For mine eyes have seen | thy sal|vation
which thou hast prepared be|fore the | face of · all | people;
3 To be a light to | lighten · the | Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy | people | Isra|el.

Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy |
Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world
with·out | end. A|men.

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.
***We believe that you are creating,
animating all that lives.
Universal grace pulsating,
you O God, the one who gives.
You are meaning, mystery, glory,
you are the fire, you the dove;
you in Jesus live your story,
show the nature of your love.***

***Jesus is divine,
engaging with the pain of human
strife.
Jesus is divine,
upstaging our death by risen life.
Life - your inexhaustible Spirit,
wills to ignite in what we do:
willing us to each inherit
justice-laden peace with you.***

Hymn No. 88 Thanks and Praise

Christ Be Our Light [Verses 1-2]

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

(Please sit or kneel)

Intercessions

Light of God,
shine upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

*Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there is no
collection. There are baskets at the doors to
facilitate making an offering. In the
interests of everyone's safety we would
encourage you to give via online banking if
possible.*

Hymn No. 88 Thanks and Praise

Christ Be Our Light [Verses 3-5]

Longing for food many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for
others,

shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering
others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts, that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his
promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you
always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

As Anna and Simeon recognised you in
the temple
*may we recognise you in those we
meet.*

As Brigid kept your light shining in
times of darkness

may we be light for those in need.

As Jesus grew and became strong and
wise

*may we grow in wisdom and wonder
and joy. Amen.*

*In the interests of trying to keep all who
come to our churches safe, please take
away this service sheet and any other items
that you may have brought with you or used
in church this morning. Thank you.*

Stay well and stay safe.

Monday 31st January 2022

Healer Prayer Group at 19.00

hours via Zoom

Contact the Rector for Zoom details.

Wednesday 2nd Feb 2022

St Thomas' Church at 10.30

Midweek Holy Communion Service



*Bring your own mug for a cuppa
afterwards!*

Sunday 6th February 2022

8.30 Holy Communion - St Thomas' Church

**10.30 Holy Communion - St Philip and St James' Church
(live-streamed)**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

via Zoom

Tuesday afternoon—15.30—16.10 hours

For Zoom details, please contact

Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

Confirmation Class

The next Confirmation Classes will be on Saturday 5th February 2022 in St Philip and St James' Church 18.00-18.30 hours and 18.30-19.15 hours

REGISTER OF VESTRYPersonS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the electoral roll of the Parish, and is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes. Booterstown and Carysfort Register was updated on Thursday night. Mount Merrion Register will be updated tomorrow night, so there is still time to be included on the Mount Merrion Parish Register. If you are not on the Register, you are not entitled to vote on parish matters and are not able to hold any office in the parish, or serve on the Select Vestry. Please contact

the Churchwardens to be placed on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form and give it to a churchwarden.

MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2022

20.00 HOURS VIA ZOOM

BOOTERSTOWN AND

CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

2022

20.00 HOURS

Colouring Section

