

Prayers for Candlemas

31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

***Come, and with divine songs let us also go to meet Christ and let us receive him whose salvation Simeon saw. This is he whom David announced: this is he whose words the prophets uttered, who for our sakes has taken flesh and speaks to us in the law. Let us worship him.*** (Orthodox prayer)

Take time to be still and in silence picture, if you may, that meeting in the temple. Bring to mind the characters we meet. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, Simeon and Anna, Who can you identify with? Can you place other people you know or have known in the other roles?

Take time to reflect on the insights you have had and thank God for them.

Let us pray;

Lord Jesus we give thanks that you came into the world to share in our earthly life; to experience family life, difficult circumstances, pain and suffering beyond our imagination and to rejoice in the love of our Heavenly Father. Thank you that as you taught your disciples you have also taught us how to pray.

Amen.

Heavenly Father we pray that the light of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ will shine in our lives and the lives of people of all races throughout the world so that wars may cease and those in need be satisfied. We pray for the will to always work for peace and be generous with our time and our money so that others may know your love.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for those in any kind of need. Especially we bring to you in prayer those whom we know or know of, who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Pour your Spirit of healing and peace upon them, that they will become whole in the way most appropriate to their circumstances. Bless also Lord those in need who we do not know. Those whom society may have forgotten. May they come to know your love and healing in their lives.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we bring before you all who are affected in any way by the present pandemic. We pray for peace of mind and healing of body and give thanks for all who work to bring relief.

Lord in your mercy...Hear our prayer

We remember before you Lord God, those who have died recently. We give thanks for the gift of life and for good examples set by those we love but see no more. Bless those who mourn. We pray for those who are preparing for funerals. We give thanks for your promise of eternal life lived in your love which embraces all.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.***