

Reflection Wednesday Week 4 The Presentation of the Lord 2022

The presentation of the first-born son to the Lord is a long tradition in Judaism. The ceremony is one of thanksgiving for a son and an act of glory and praise to God. It is linked with the Hebrews being set free at the final plague when the first-born sons of the Egyptians died. For the Israelites the first-born son became a sign of redemption. It is significant that Jesus became the redeemer not just of the Jews but of all people, past, present and future. The feast reminds us of the hope and future promise that a child brings to a family and to all who make contact with the new born. It also shows us that life is not only filled with joys and sorrows but that the sorrows need not drag us down but that they too can be a source of uplift. Whenever we turn towards Jesus we stand before a light that embraces us, leads and guides us, encourages us, reassures and strengthens us.

The feast is also called **Candlemas** (Malcolm Guite)

*They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
they moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
for God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
they'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
and keep the day the prophecies came true.
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
the peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.*