

## Reflection Friday Week 4 The presentation of Jesus in the temple 2024

This feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple is the day on which Jesus is consecrated to God as the first-born son. It is the Purification of Mary required in Jewish Law after giving birth. It is also a feast of light and our candles represent the light who is Christ. Yet another echo of Christmas reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. It also reminds us that the light of Christ shines within us, the light of Christ received in baptism. As Simeon held the young Jesus in his arms, he claimed to be *the light to the Gentiles and the glory of the chosen people*.

**Larry Gillick** writes "This day is about the Light that gives light. *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light."* Simeon and Anna offer us invitations to receive the Light and walk in its comfort let the experience of the shadows within lie behind us. In this way we will not let them darken our lives as we stand before the Light of Christ. I wish you all a Happy Feast, a happy Candlemas Day and may all your days ahead be filled with the light of Christ and enhance each day with his presence and his life.

Oh God each day we walk into mystery.

Fill us with hope and an abiding trust.

God of wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new day.

May it be a time of grace,

a time to grow in faith and love,

a time to renew our commitment to follow Jesus.

May it be a day of blessing,

a time to cherish family and friends,

a time to renew efforts at work,

a time to embrace faith more fully,

a time to work for peace and justice.

Walk with us, please,

throughout every hour of the day,

that the light of Christ might shine through us,

despite our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember

that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.