

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Or Candlemas

You could celebrate Candlemas on 2nd February (or the nearest convenient day).

This is the time we remember Jesus' presentation in the temple. All Jewish boys had to be taken to the temple in Jerusalem (where possible) when they were 40 days old. When Jesus was taken there, Simeon prophesied that He was:

'a light for revelation to the Gentiles'

The day has also been called Candlemas because, before electricity, the supply of candles to be used in church that year were blessed on this day.

There are several customs associated with Candlemas:

1. Lighting candles – people used to light a special candle and children were allowed to stay up until the candle went out. In homes and churches every window would be lit by a candle.
2. People would sit around the candle talking, telling stories and drinking hot punch.
3. Candlemas bells (snowdrops) could be picked for the table.
4. 'Boxy' is a traditional food for the evening before. These are cheese and potato cakes. (I never got round to making it the day before! But it's quick to make for the day itself).

You could choose one or more of these ideas to do together. We usually eat our meal by candlelight on this day. Then you could pray together.



Celebration with younger children.

Read: Luke 2:25-32 (or read the story in a Children's bible)

Say together: A new born baby –

the light for all people.

A tiny child –

the God of us all.

Seen by Simeon,

known by Anna.

God with us.

Read: Luke 2:36-38

Pray: Lord Jesus,

We thank you that

you bring light into our lives.

Help us to share your light

by being helpful,

by smiling,

by showing kindness,

to our family and friends.

Amen.



Celebration with older children.

Read: Luke 2: 21-32

Say together: A new born baby –
the light for all people.
A tiny child –
the God of us all.
Seen by Simeon,
known by Anna.
God with us.

Read: Luke 2:33-40

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,

You were taken to the temple
and given to God.

We thank you that our parents
have given us to you.

We are your children,
we belong to you.



Voice 2: Sometimes it's hard,
to keep giving ourselves to you.
Our hearts are selfish and self-centred,
we want our own way.
Father forgive us.

Voice 3: As the days begin to lengthen
the sun becomes stronger,
warmer and more powerful,
so may our home be filled
with the light of
your presence
your warmth
and your power.
Amen

Together: Please light up our darkness, Lord,
and protect us from
the dangers and fears of the night.
For you love us,
and we live within your love.
Amen.

