St Edmund's Church Shipston on Stour

A service of Eucharist

Waiting for God

Celebrating Candlemas

Nowadays it's common for families to take down their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (January 5) or even earlier. But in medieval Europe they usually stayed up until Candlemas on February 2, or were removed the evening before. Christmas was celebrated for forty days in the Middle Ages!

Why? Because forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented in the temple according to Jewish custom. Today we hear the account of that day and of Simeon and Anna, who had waited for this moment for years.

Candlemas marks the end of our season of Christmas and Epiphany, when we were focussing on the birth of Jesus. From today we begin to look forward in the direction of Lent and Easter. We often call our Candlemas services "From the Crib to the Cross" for this reason

Today's service

This morning we will carefully put away our crib figures until next Christmas and then we will think about the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, and Simeon and Anna in the temple.

Please feel free to sit or stand at any point. If you need to get up and wander, that's fine too and we encourage those who want to bring knitting, crochet, doodling or anything else that helps you worship.

There are loos at the back and large print copies of orders of services and hymn books.

Gathering Worship

Hymn 39 Angels from the realms of glory

In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you

Packing away the crib

As we turn from the crib to the cross, we carefully pack away the nativity figures:

First the wise men are packed away
As the Wise Men journeyed against the odds to find you, may we seek to follow you wherever you may lead us…….

Mary is carefully packed away
As Mary said yes to God, without whom God could do nothing, may we say yes and trust you…….

Next, Joseph is packed away
As Joseph said yes to God, despite his doubts, to be included in your plan, may we trust you enough to overcome our doubts and fears…….

Finally, Jesus is taken out of the crib scene and packed away
As Jesus was born as a helpless child, so God comes close to us, bends to reach us, and empties himself to become one of us…….

Be with all who struggle in darkness now.
Bless to us your light in our darkness;
bless to us your hope in our hearts.
bless to us your peace in our homes.
Be with us now as we walk your way of transforming love.
Amen.

The children leave for Lego Church

Confession and Absolution

Loving God, refining fire,
You know us through and through,
Nothing is hidden from your gaze.
You look for the best in us,
You look beyond our faults and failings,
You look into our hearts.

God, have mercy on us,
forgive us our sin.

Loving God, refining fire,
Help us to see through your eyes,
Like Simeon and Anna, to see the opportunities that you present,
The promises that you fulfil,
And to see the best in ourselves and in others,
And to live from that perception.

God, have mercy on us,
forgive us our sin

God for us in our becoming,
God with us in our journeying,
God in us in our healing.
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
forgive us and make us whole.
Amen

Collect for Candlemas

Gloria

Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people –
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb, who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated,
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
.Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit Three in One!

Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

at the end

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

Blessed be God
For he has redeemed us,
Giv'n us a saviour,
David's great Son;
Tell out his praises,
Sing in thanksgiving,
From all our foes
Our freedom is won.

Prophets foretold
That he'd come with mercy,
Keeping his promise
Made through the years,
Bringing deliverance
From all who'd harmed us;
Joyfully serve him,
Free from all fears.

To those in darkness
God's sun has risen,
His tender mercy Bringing us light,
Taking away
The dread of death's shadow,
Guiding us onward
Out of the night.

Praise to the Father,
praise to the Spirit,
Praise to the Son,
Christ Jesus our Lord;
From the beginning,
Now and for ever
May you be worshipped,
Praised and adored.

Margaret Harvey

Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you O Lord

at the end
This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Intercessions

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

Hymn 584 Of the Father's love begotten (omit vv 3&4)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We listen as the priest tells of God's work in creation and respond:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We listen as the priest recalls the Last Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again

The prayer continues at at the end we respond:
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people
Jesus Christ is holy
Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father

All are welcome to receive communion here. No one is turned away.

If you prefer to come for a blessing, please bring this order with you to indicate this.

Prayer after communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

Notices and announcements

Hymn 452 Longing for Light

Closing Worship

All reman standing and a group stands by the font with a candle.

May Christ be born in our hearts today.
Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.
Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.
Praise to Christ our light.

We stand near the place of new birth.
Let us shine with the light of your love.

The procession, with the candle moves to the door

We turn from the crib to the cross.
Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.
Let us shine with the light of your love.
Thanks be to God.

Our Sunday services in St Edmund's are all at 10.30am and on the fourth Sunday of the month it's Cafe Sunday, a more informal service.
We also meet on Wednesdays at 10am for a service of Eucharist.

Contact details

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We don't take a collection in our services but if you would like to give to the work of the church you can do so by scanning the QR code here.
There is also a contactless machine and a box for cash donations at the back of church.

All donations are very gratefully received.

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SHIPSTON ON STOUR