

# SOUTH LEITH PARISH CHURCH CELEBRATES 500 YEARS

(ERECTED 1483)

## CANDLEMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, 6th FEBRUARY 1983 at 11 a.m.



### **A Word of Explanation**

Candlemas came to be celebrated forty days after Christmas, but it is even more ancient than Christmas. It was observed in the Eastern Church to recall the Presentation of Jesus as a child in the temple at Jerusalem, a festival of Christ, "The meeting of the Lord" (i.e. with Simeon and Anna). The Western or Roman Church thought of it as the occasion of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, referring to the Jewish custom of the purification of women after childbirth. Eventually great numbers of candles or lights came to be used, making the point that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. So it became, in common usage, Candlemas.

Today South Leith Parish Church is reviving this ancient tradition of the church to remind ourselves that our role is still the same as that of the kirk's founders 500 years ago: to show Jesus Christ to be the light of Leith and the world. Five hundred candles will be used, the majority of them having been made by the Church's Kirkgate Youth Club. Their light will symbolise the meaning of Christ's coming to a world that without Him lies in spiritual darkness. At the same time we will see signified the unending witness to the light of Christ maintained here for five centuries.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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## INTIMATIONS AND APOSTOLIC GREETING

INTROIT: "O send thy light forth and thy truth" (From Psalm 43: Martyrs)

### FOUR RED CANDLES ON THE COMMUNION TABLE ARE LIT IN TURN

**1. The first is lit to remind us that God wills light for the world:**

"In the beginning of creation, when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void, with darkness . . . . God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light; and God saw that the light was good . . . ."

(Genesis 1)

**2. The second candle is lit to remind us of the light fanned by the prophets when life was dark:**

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: light has dawned upon them, dwellers in a land as dark as death . . . . Then shall blind men's eyes be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped . . . ."

(Isaiah 9 & 35)

**3. The third candle is lit to remind us of John the Baptist, who called men and women to change their way of living and prepare for the man Jesus:**

"The light shines on in the dark, and the darkness has never mastered it. There appeared a man named John sent from God; he came as a witness to testify to the light, that all might become believers through him . . . The real light which enlightens every man was even then coming into the world."

(John 1)

**4. The fourth candle is lit to remind us of Mary, who was ready to respond gladly to God's call, and who proclaimed His concern for the humble:**

"Here am I, I am the Lord's servant; as you have spoken, so be it . . . .  
. . . so wonderfully has He dealt with me, the Lord, the Mighty One. His name is Holy; His mercy sure from generation to generation toward those who fear him . . . ."

(Luke 1)

### HYMN (No. 165)

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| 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,<br>And ransom captive Israel,<br>That mourns in lonely exile here<br>Until the Son of God appear.<br>Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel<br>Shall come to thee, O Israel. | 4 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br>Our spirits by thine advent here;<br>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br>And death's dark shadows put to flight. |
| 2 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,<br>Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height<br>In ancient times didst give the law<br>In cloud and majesty and awe.  | 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,<br>And open wide our heavenly home;<br>Make safe the way that leads on high,<br>And close the path to misery.                 |
| 3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free<br>Thine own from Satan's tyranny;<br>From depths of hell thy people save,<br>And give them victory o'er the grave.  |  |

**A PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR OUR PART IN THE WORLD'S DARKNESS TODAY,  
AND OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE HERITAGE HANDED ON TO US IN SOUTH LEITH**

## THE WHITE CANDLE IN THE CENTRE OF THE TABLE IS NOW LIT

to remind us of Jesus Christ Himself:

"Jesus addressed the people: 'I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark; he shall have the light of life.'"

(John 8)

### A CAROL FOR CANDLEMAS

#### Chorus:

The Holly and the Ivy  
Are dancing in a ring,  
Round the berry bright red candles  
And the white and shining King.

1 Oh, One is for God's Word of Hope  
Five hundred years here bright,  
Now our generation praises  
"Thanks be to God for light".

2 And two are for the prophets  
And for the light they bring.  
They are candles in the darkness  
All alight for Christ the King.

3 And three for John the Baptist,  
Who calls on us to sing:  
"O prepare the way for Jesus Christ  
He is coming, Christ the King".

4 And four for Mother Mary,  
"I cannot see the way,  
But you promised me the Baby  
I believe and I obey".

5 And Christ is at the Centre,  
Of Temple in our day.  
Quincentenary Candlemas  
Jesus Christ is Light and Way.

### THE READING OF JESUS' PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE AS A CHILD OF 6 WEEKS:

(Luke 2: 22 - 40)

### THE CANDLEMAS HYMN (No. 206) SUNG BY THE CHOIR

WE NOW BEGIN TO TAKE THE LIGHT FROM THE CANDLE REMINDING US OF  
JESUS CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
AND LIGHT UP THE CANDLES ROUND THE CHURCH

### THE SCOTTISH CANDLEMAS PARAPHRASE (No. 38)

1 Just and devout old Simeon liv'd;  
to him it was reveal'd,  
That Christ, the Lord, his eyes should see  
ere death his eyelids seal'd.

2 For this consoling gift of Heav'n  
to Isr'el's fallen state,  
From year to year, with patient hope,  
the aged saint did wait.

3 Nor did he wait in vain; for lo!  
revolving years brought round,  
in season due, the happy day,  
which all his wishes crown'd.

4 When Jesus, to the temple brought  
by Mary's pious care,  
As Heav'n's appointed rites requir'd,  
to God was offer'd there.

5 Simeon into those sacred courts  
a heav'nly impulse drew;  
He saw the Virgin hold her Son,  
and straight his Lord he knew,

6 With holy joy upon his face  
the good old father smil'd;  
Then fondly in his wither'd arms  
he clasp'd the promis'd child:

7 And while he held the heav'n bo'n Babe,  
ordain'd to bless mankind,  
Thus spoke with earnest look and heart  
exulting, yet resigned:

8 Now, Lord- according to thy word,  
let me in peace depart:  
Mine eyes have thine salvation seen,  
and gladness fills my heart.

9 At length my arms embrace my Lord,  
now let their vigour cease;  
At last my eyes my Saviour see,  
now let them close in peace.

10 This great salvation, long prepar'd,  
and now disclos'd to view,  
Hath prov'd thy love was constant still,  
and promises were true.

11 That Sun I now behold, whose light  
shall heathen darkness chase,  
And rays of brightest glory pour  
around thy chosen race.

## THE OFFERING

### DOXOLOGY (No. 661)

Laud and honour to the Father,  
Laud and honour to the Son,  
Laud and honour to the Spirit,  
Ever three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

### A PRAYER FOR US TO SAY TOGETHER

"O Christ our Lord, who came that men might walk in light and have life more abundantly, lead us forward at this time in Your own ways of giving and of spreading light, that our personal life may grow in true riches, our Church of five centuries fan the flame of faith for the coming generations, and Your light shine more brightly in Leith and the wider community of our world. We ask it for Your own love's sake."

### A PRAYER FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN

concluding with (together)

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOW LIGHT THEIR CANDLES,  
OCCUPY THE AISLES, AND RING THE CONGREGATION IN CANDLELIGHT

### BAPTISMAL HYMN (No. 550)

- 1 \*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
- 2 Come, brethren, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:
- 3 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:
- 4 Each new-born soldier of the Crucified  
Bears on his brow the seal of him who died:

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- 5 This is the sign which Satan's legions fear  
And angels veil their faces to revere:
- 6 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw men unto thee:
- 7 From farthest regions let them homage bring,  
And on his cross adore their Saviour King.

### THE BENEDICTION