

SOUTH LEITH PARISH CHURCH CANDLEMAS Sunday 5th February 1985

INTIMATIONS, EXPLANATION OF THIS SERVICE AND APOSTOLIC GREETING

Choir Introit: "O send thy light forth and thy truth" (Hymn 7/Psalm 43;
Martyrs)

One large white candle and three smaller red candles
on the communion table are lit in turn:

1. The Principal Candle is lit to remind us that God wills light for the world from the beginning:

SESSION CLERK LIGHTS PRINCIPAL CANDLE

"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... (from Genesis 1)

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

SENIOR ELDER LIGHTS SECOND CANDLE

"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.... (from Isaiah 9 and 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:

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT LIGHTS THIRD CANDLE

"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" (from 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:

STUDENT DEACONESS LIGHTS FOURTH CANDLE

"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.... "(from Luke 1)

HYMN 165 "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

PRAYER - of confession for our part in the world's darkness today, and
of thanksgiving for the heritage handed on to us.

HYMN 488 "Jesus bids us shine"

(SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN LEAVE)

THE DEAD

"If it is for this life only that Christ has given us hope then
we are of all men most to be pitied" (1 Cor 15 v 9)

SESSION CLERK TAKES PRINCIPAL CANDLE FROM TABLE AND CARRIES IT
TO WAR MEMORIAL, STANDING THERE

READING: JOHN 3 vv 16 - 21

HYMN 533 (Par 66) "How bright these glorious spirits shine"

THE LIVING

"The light shines on amongst US"

("I invite the congregation to maintain this silence, beyond
the reading that begins now, both for the carrying of the Light
through the Congregation and for the giving of the Offering
thereafter")

READING: 1 JOHN 1 vv 1 - 7

SESSION CLERK CARRIES CANDLE THROUGH THE CONGREGATION,
i.e. ROUND THE AISLE TO THE PULPIT, AND STANDS THERE.

- THE OFFERING IS TAKEN UP -
(and retained at back of church until singing commences)

HYMN 365 "For the might of thine arm we bless thee")

(During singing, Offering is brought forward and laid on table)

PRAYER - of intercession and (together) "OUR FATHER...."

THE NEWLY BORN

"Candlemas goes back to the presentation of Jesus as an infant
in the temple at Jerusalem by his parents"

READING: LUKE 2 vv 25-32

SESSION CLERK CARRIES CANDLE OVER TO FONT AND STANDS IT
ALONGSIDE.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Candlemas Hymn 206 "When Mary brought her treasure"

PRAYER: Collect for the future.....

"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".

BAPTISMAL HYMN 550 "Lift high the cross" (vv 1-4)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL HYMN 550 "Lift high the cross" (and vv 5-7)

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

John M Kellet, MA
South Leith

REVIEWS

"THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE - AN ALTERNATIVE ORDER. MUSIC EDITION"
Mowbray. £1.75

The night office, Completorium, concluded the seven Day Hours developed in the fifth century monastic order of St. Benedict. The early history of the daily offices, which is one of gradual complexity and balancing attempts at simplification need not concern us in this review. Three stages mark the survival of Compline in the Anglican tradition.