

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and Candlemas (Breakfast Church)

Suzie Rose (and Breakfast Church crew)

Wimborne Minster and the Wimborne Villages Benefice

We invite all the families who were involved in the Crib service to come along and help us to put the stable figures to bed until next Christmas. On the posters around the village everyone is invited to join us.

We've moved into the church building after breakfast in the hall. Action song to get everyone focussed and settled. Read the reading from Luke 2: 21 – 34. The question we then asked the families was, "What light is the light Simeon is talking about?" Having identified the light as Jesus we light the Paschal candle as a symbol of the Light of Christ, saying "Jesus is the Light of the world". Most of the children will respond, as usual, "May His light shine on us".

We move to the stable scene. We ask the children about the figures in the scene and then invite them to help us wrap them and store them back in the boxes. I make sure I pick up the baby before anyone else does and hang on to it. We make a point of wrapping Him last and putting Him away.

Once safely packed away we talk about the fact that we may have put the figure of Jesus in a box but no way can we put the real Jesus in a box for another year and forget about Him. He doesn't put us in a box. He's looking out for us all the time, caring for us etc. Look (pointing to the candle) the light of Christ is still shining. So why do we need light? How is the light of Jesus helpful to us? Listen to ideas. Let's hear what the Bible says about the Light of Christ. (Is. 7: 14, Mat. 4: 12 – 16,) and Jesus leaves us in no doubt that He is here for us - John 8: 12. That didn't mean just at Christmas, but for all time. We carry His light in our hearts.

We have a short explanation of Candlemass and then sing the song 'This Little Guiding Light of Mine' using our index finger as a candle and doing all the actions. (This may be heard on youtube (Irish Girl Scouts). The word Gospel may be used instead of Guiding.) Well that was fun, but now we're going to do something special. We then bring all the children up to the Chancel steps where we give them all a votive candle, usually the 4" thin ones with a drip shield and light each one from the Paschal candle, the light of Christ. We then invite the parents to ask God's blessing for their children, and all children everywhere. Blow out candles. The children may then take the candles home to use if they have a prayer time at home. Stay quiet for a few intercessions.

Suitable songs and prayers at various points and the talk and activity usually take about 35 minutes. We don't extinguish the Paschal candle until everyone has left the church. A retiring collection could be taken but as most folk have contributed in the usual way at the Breakfast we don't ask for anything further.

Required: Entry for Breakfast Church invitation - Did you come to the Crib service and help set up the stable in the church? Perhaps you put one of people or animals inside the stable? We invite you to join us for Breakfast Church on to help to put everything away until next Christmas. Usual blurb re catering etc. Poster – Simple wording, pictures etc. Boxes and tissue paper etc. for the crib figures plus one extra box. (Children not good at wrapping-repack later)Votive candles and drip-shields for children; Words for the blessing to give to parents to share. Words & music for This Little Guiding Light – for keyboard player and a few extra.

To sort: Keyboard player (if tune for Guiding Light not available it's easy to sing unaccompanied and actions demonstrated first)

Volunteers to read the Bible readings x - to write/say intercessions - Cooks - Food order
Setting up crew for hall – Sat a.m. Set up keyboard and Altar table

This Little Guiding Light of Mine

This little guiding light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

Hide it under a bush, Oh no! I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

Take my little light round the world, I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

Don't you blow my little light out, I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

Jesus lights this light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

This little guiding light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. X3

Let it shine, All the time, Let it shine.

Actions:

Hold fist out in front with index finger pointing upward.

Cover candle with other hand.

Turn around in a circle staying on the spot.

Don't sing the word blow but pretend to blow out candle.

Point to the sky with other hand on the word 'Jesus', then to the candle on the words 'light of mine'.

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