

Candlemas Eve Carol

Robert Herick (1591-1674)

Tablatured by Burt I. Kahn

D A D A G D

1 0 0 2 1. 0. 3 0 0 4 0 0 5 0 4 6 3 0
3 3 3 0. 1. 0 0 3 3 5 4 3 3
2 4 2 4 2 1. 0 1 0 1 2 5 4 4 4 7 5 6 + - 4 5 3 4 2

A D A D

7 0 1 8 1 1 9 0 0 10 1. 0. 11 0 0 12 0 0
3 0 0 0 3 3 0 0 3 3 1. 1. 0 0 3 3
4 2 1 0 1 1 2 4 2 4 2 1. 0 1 0 1 2 5 4 4 4

G D D

13 0 0 14 0 0 15 0 0 16 0. 0.
5 1 3 0 3 3 0. 0.
7 5 3 2 1 4 2 0 1 2 4 2 4 2 1 0.

In many cultures, including in some Latin countries today, Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season. It is celebrated on February 2nd, the 40th day after Christmas, and is technically known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary as well as the Presentation in the Temple.

Dom Prosper Gueranger, O.S.B., wrote in 1871 that "We apply the name of Christmas to the forty days which begin with the Nativity of our Lord, December 25, and end with the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, February 2. It is a period which forms a distinct portion of the Liturgical Year..."

The basis of the Feast of the Purification was the Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child and were not permitted to enter the Temple to worship. This was 40 days after the birth of a son and 60 days after the birth of a daughter. At the end of the 40 or 60 days, the mother was brought to the Temple or synagogue and ritually purified. Now she can go to religious services again, and generally go out in public. See Leviticus 12:2-8.