



Christingle Service 2009

Welcome

Opening Verse of Scripture *Luke Chapter 3*

Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

Opening Words

We have come together in the presence of God to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

All **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.**

Third Candle - John The Baptist

Leader: May the joy and peace of God fill our hearts as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Thanks be to God**

Leader: Last Sunday we lit two candles to remember the patriarchs and the prophets

(A person lights the first and second candles)

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light a candle to remember John the Baptist



Matthew Chapter 3

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called

John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the third candle)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of Jesus. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love, that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love.

Hymn

- 1 Come now with awe, earth's ancient vigil keeping;
cold under starlight lies the stony way.
Down from the hillside see the shepherds creeping,
hear in our hearts the whispered news they say:
 'Laid in a manger lies an infant sleeping,
 Christ our Redeemer, born for us today.'
- 2 Come now with joy to worship and adore him;
hushed in the stillness, wonder and behold,
Christ in the stable where his mother bore him,
Christ whom the prophets faithfully foretold:
 High King of Ages, low we kneel before him,
 starlight for silver, lantern-light for gold.
- 3 Come now with faith, the age-long secret guessing,
hearts rapt in wonder, soul and spirit stirred;
see in our likeness love beyond expressing,
all God has spoken, all the prophets heard;
 born for us sinners, bearer of all blessing,
 flesh of our flesh, behold the eternal Word!
- 4 Come now with love; beyond our comprehending
love in its fullness lies in mortal span!
How should we love, whom Love is so befriending?
Love rich in mercy since our race began
 now stoops to save us, sighs and sorrows ending,
 Jesus our Saviour, Son of God made man.

Confession

All We confess those times when we have failed to bring light into the world around us. We are sorry for those things which we have done which have hurt others or damaged the world in which we live.

Minister You were born for our salvation.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

The minister will declare God's word of forgiveness

The Offering

Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank. If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax. Please stand as the Offering is brought forward.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Hymn

Make way, make way, for Christ the King
In splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him
Into your lives.

*Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)
For the King of kings. (For the King of kings.)
Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)
And let His kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.

We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all.
To have no gods before Him,
Their thrones must fall!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister Glory to Christ, Son of Mary; born a child,
you share our humanity:

All Glory to God in the highest.

Minister Glory to Christ, Son of David;
born to rule, you receive gifts from the wise;

All Glory to God in the highest.

Minister Glory to Christ, Son of Man;
born our Saviour, you are the light of the world:

All Glory to God in the highest.

Minister We celebrate the coming of our God
with all the voices of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Collect Prayer and Bible Readings

You may follow the Bible readings in Partnership News

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

- 1 Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor.

- 2 Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

- 3 Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love, beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Address

Richard Ledger

Making and Presentation of Christingles

Minister With the help of the Holy Spirit of God, take this Christingle as a reminder of the light of Christ in your home. Take the light of Christ within you, and seek to share that light in the places where you go. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**All Father of all, may we, whom the Spirit lights,
give light to the world. Alleluia, thanks be to God**

Hymn

The orange of Christingle
the world reminds us of,
And how our God created us,
And on us sheds his love.
*O sing about Christingle,
Your voices loud employ.
Your praises bring to God our King;
For Jesus and his joy.*

The candle of Christingle,
With shining flame so bright;
Reminds us of our loving Lord
Who is the world's true light.

The red band of Christingle
Which plainly we can see;
Reminds us of how Jesus Christ
was killed upon that tree.

The four sticks of Christingle,
With which the orb we spear,
Remind us how God cares for us,
thro' the seasons of the year.

The whole of the Christingle,
It is a joy to see;
It shines to show how our Father God,
Loves even you and me.

(Tune The Holly and the Ivy, trad.)

THE PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

Now praise the Father, now praise the Spirit,
Now praise the Saviour, Jesus the Son,
Praise our Creator, praise our Redeemer,
Shout Alleluia, sing everyone.

Jesus our Saviour, came from his Father,
Lived here among us, joined in our fun.
Showed how he loved us, died for us gladly,
Shout Alleluia, sing everyone.

Light your Christingle, think of the Saviour.
Born in a stable how the star shone,
Jesus is with us, Light in the darkness
Shout Alleluia, sing everyone.

Now praise the Father, now praise the Spirit,
Now praise the Saviour. Jesus the Son.
Praise our Creator, Praise our Redeemer.
Shout Alleluia, sing everyone.
(Tune: *Bunessan*)

The Blessing

Go in peace in the light of our Lord
to love and serve him.

All

In the name of Christ. Amen.



The Christingle 'Christ Light'

For many years churches all over the world have made Christingles to remind them that Christ is the light who came into the world at

Christmas. Christingle service are held in churches, usually between Advent and Candlemas. It is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to join in, using oranges to create visible symbols of the Christian message. The Christingle has its origins in a Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon, in memory of the Saviour's coming which he said has kindled a flame in each heart which keeps burning "to His joy, and our happiness".

Much later, this simple candle was replaced by a more elaborate Christingle which is rich in symbolism.

The Christingle orange represents the world, John reminds us that 'Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him'. (John 1 v 10 – 11).

The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'. (Genesis 8 v 22).

The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us in love so that our sins may be forgiven. 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him' (John 3:16-17)

The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. 'He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".' (John 8 v 12).