



Christingle: 13th December

Welcome

We make the sign of the cross

In my head,
in my heart,
and all around me,
Jesus is here.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We long for the peace of Christ in our world
Come Prince of Peace

The second candle is lit and this response is used

Listen for the voice of the prophet
crying out in the wilderness:
prepare the way of the Lord.

Come Prince of Peace

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him
and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

**Christ be our light;
shine in your church today**

Hymn: Christ, be our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*



Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Bible Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing

Talk: Revd Petra Shakeshaft

In the beginning, God made the earth.
He made seas and mountains,
Hills and streams,
He made night and day
and the four seasons.
He filled the earth with plants and flowers,
trees and shrubs laden with juicy fruits.
He made birds, bats, butterflies and insects to fill the skies,
fish, whales and sharks,
crabs, octopi, starfish and seahorses to fill the waters.
He made animals large and small,
from the weeniest ant to the widest elephant,
from the slowest tortoise to the speediest cheetah.
God looked at what he had made
and saw that it was good.

God was filled with love.
“But who can I love?” He wondered.
Then he said,
“I know, Let us make human beings in our own image.”
and so he made men and women, and little children;
human beings in his own image
and God loved them.

The human beings grew in number and multiplied
until they filled the whole earth
and so God’s love was spread over the whole earth.
People learned to love God,
They learned to pray
and they raised up huge buildings where they could come together to worship God.

But things started to go wrong.
People forgot about God,
They started to worship other things
carved golden statues
and money and each other and themselves.
They were selfish and greedy
and hurt one another and fought.

God sent prophets;
men who would remind the people that God loved them
and that they should stop their bad habits;
they should be kind to one another
and remember God loved them.
But time after time
they didn’t listen.
“What can I do?” thought God.
“They will not listen.”
He looked down at his world and saw sad people;
angry people, poor people, mean people,
and good people,
people who longed for something, but they didn’t know what.
“They long for love,” thought God
“They are longing for me
I must go to them.”

Then he saw a young woman.
He watched her.
She prayed.
Her heart was good and kind and she loved God.
“She will listen.” thought God.

So he sent his angel, Gabriel, to Mary
and she *did* listen
and Mary carried God inside her
until he was born as a tiny baby
in a stable in Bethlehem;
a baby just like every one of us.
And God's felt his love wrapped around the world
like a long, red ribbon.
And the baby, Jesus, grew up
and he taught people all about God,
and how much God loved them;
about how they should love one another
and God's love shone through him like a light in the darkness.

But there were some who did not like what Jesus said.
He scared them,
He worried them.
And so they had him killed.
He was crucified on a tree
and his light went out.
But then, on the third day
he rose again.
He came back in a new and special way
and the light and love of God shone through him more brightly than before;
the light and love that shines forever and ever.

Making Christingles

Song: Song for Christingle

Can you see what we have made
For this very special day?
An orange for our planet home
Circling around the sun
Count the seasons as we sing
Summer, autumn, winter, spring
Sing to God who sends the rain
Making all things new again

Candlelight burning bright
Chase the darkness of the night
Christ the light, light our way
Live inside our hearts today

See the food with colours bright
Taste buds tingle at the sight
Let's be thankful as we share
God's good gifts are everywhere
Why then is the world we made
Wrapped around with ribbon red?
Red is for our ransom paid
When our Lord was crucified.

There's a world I'm dreaming of
Where there's peace and joy and love
Light of Jesus everywhere
This is my Christingle prayer

Prayers

Generous God, we thank you for our beautiful creation and for all your gifts to us; we are sorry for those things we do that harm the earth and for taking its fruits for granted. Make us people who care for the world and share your gifts.

Loving God, We thank you for your love circled around the world and we are sorry for those times we ignore your love for us, when we are unkind to one another and turn our back on you. Make us people who care for one another and show your love.

Holy God, we thank you that you came to us and brought us your light. We are sorry we sometimes hide ourselves in darkness and hide your light from the world. Make us a people who live in your light and shine as beacons of your love and care. We pray for those people for whom this is a dark and difficult time, remembering especially all those children and young people the Children's Society cares for and supports. Shine your light on them and brighten their darkness, give them courage and hope this Advent and Christmas.

Generous, Holy, Loving God, bless these Christingles that they may be a reminder of your generosity, your love and your light.

Make us a holy people; that we may shine brightly in the world

We light the Christingles and sing

Hymn: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest can come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

All praise eternal son to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Communion

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds light which causes all things to grow. You made us all, each in your image, yet wonderfully different. You breathed into us your life-giving Spirit that we may join with the angels singing your praise:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you gave Jesus, your Son, who gave his life for us on the cross and showed us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

Closing Prayer

Go into the world in peace.
Care for God's world and be generous with his gifts.
Treat people with gentleness and truth,
Be friends to the friendless and lonely,
Shine as lights of Christ and brighten this dark world

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

If you have any prayer or pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact
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