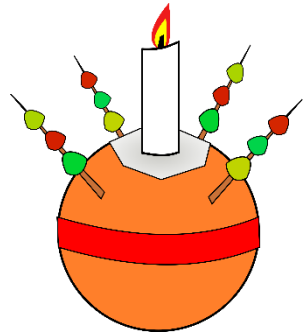


St Paul's Egham Hythe Christingle Service

Please take great care with the candles when lit



Welcome and introduction

The Christingle begins with an orange,
like the world which the Lord God made.
For creation is full of his glory;
all around we see his love displayed.

*Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.*

Every year we give thanks for the seasons,
and the fruits of the earth to share.
The Christingle is here to remind us
that the love of God is everywhere.

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...



God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;
we remember his birth again.
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
tells the story of his cross and pain.

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

To complete the Christingle:
a candle, telling us of the world's true light.
For the darkness shall not overcome it,
Jesus shines on in the darkest night.

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

The orange (reminding us of the world)

In the beginning of creation when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void. Darkness was over the face of the deep and a mighty wind swept over the waters. God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light.

All: God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from darkness.

When all things began, the Word already was. The Word dwelt with God, and what God was, the Word was. Through him all things came to be; no single thing was created without him. All that came to be was alive with his life, and that life was the light of the world.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness had never put it out.

(From Genesis 1: 1-4 and John 1: 1-5)

The red band (reminding us of the sacrifice of Jesus)

We say sorry to God for turning away from his love)

Lord Jesus you are the Light of the World, but sometimes we hide from your light because it shows up the wrong things we do.

All: Father, forgive us

We're sorry that we don't always care for the world you have given us.

All: Father, forgive us

We're sorry that we can be selfish and don't want to share.

All: Father, forgive us

We're sorry that we don't always love our neighbours.

All: Father, forgive us

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour cleanse you and forgive you your sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The fruits (reminding us of all that God provides)

Reading: Luke 11:33-36

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”

The candle (reminding us of Jesus the light of the world)

Like a candle flame flickering small in our darkness,
Uncreated light shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia

Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

Stars and angels sing, yet the earth sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark set a world on fire? *God is with us....*

Yet his light shall shine from our lives, Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame of his holy fire. *God is with us...*

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The Lighting of the Christingles

As you receive this light, remember that Christ is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

After all the candles have been lit the lights are dimmed we all hold up our Christingles and pray together.

Prayers

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked 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 for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Blessing

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us, shine on me, shine on me:

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Chorus)*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Chorus)*