

Transcript

CHRISTINGLE BENEFICE SERVICE 6TH DECEMBER

Welcome & Introduction: Mark Poole

Welcome to this special broadcast where we share in a Christingle Service. You are warmly welcome wherever you are tuning in from, and especially if this is your first time. My name is Revd Mark Poole, and I am the curate of the Benefice of Rural East York. This service is brought to you through the gifts, talents and hard work of many of our parishioners, younger and older along with one of our production teams and our Reader Judith Hewitt. We are hugely grateful to you all.

Hopefully, you will have a Christingle at the ready, or all the bits to make one to hand if you want to participate.

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year, and is a four-week period leading up to Christmas Day where Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ coming as the Light of the world. It is a time to pray, wait and hope.

Christmas celebrations in church will be different this year due to coronavirus. We will broadcast a carol service on the 20th December, a crib service on Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day Service all via Youtube as usual. We have also planned to celebrate the Eucharist at St Nicholas in Dunnington on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm and on Christmas Day at 9:30 and 10:30 and seats must be reserved by contacting our Rector Rev Nick Bird. At Holy Trinity Stockton we plan to have two carol services on the 20th December, one for families at 4:00pm and a more traditional one at 6:00pm. We have also planned a Christmas Day Eucharist at Holy Trinity at 10:30. Seats for all these services must be reserved through our churchwarden Ennis Twedde. Of course, these live services are subject to government restrictions and could be cancelled at the last minute so please do check the St Nicholas Dunnington website for the latest information.

Today's Christingle service is a special service that celebrates Jesus as the Light of the world and the new life and hope he brings. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness and money for the Children's Society, who bring light to the lives of young people who are suffering across this country.

Today we have an opportunity to celebrate Jesus, the Light, coming into a world of darkness, and to share that light with others.

And so, we pray...

Christ has brought us out of darkness

To live in his wonderful light

Light of the world, shine on us as we gather today so that we may take your light into all the world,

reflecting your glory and sharing your love. **Amen**

Hymn: Like a candle flame

Hymn: Like a candle flame by Graham Kendrick

1. Like a candle flame

Flickering small in our darkness

Uncreated light

Shines through infant eyes

3. Stars and angels sing

Yet the earth sleeps in shadows

Can this tiny spark

Set a world on fire?

2. God is with us, alleluia (Men)

God is with us, alleluia (Women)

Come to save us, alleluia (Men)

Come to save us (Women)

Alleluia! (All)

4. Yet his light shall shine

From our lives, Spirit blazing

As we touch the flame

Of his holy fire

Confession

To let God's light shine through us, we need to say sorry for those things we have said and done that we shouldn't have. So we say together:

Father God,

**We are sorry for the things we say and do which make you sad,
and for not thinking of others before ourselves.**

**We are sorry for times when we have seen people in need
and ignored them and walked on by.**

**Please forgive us and help us to love you and other people,
so we may bring light and hope to the world.**

Amen.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Dunnington school slot:

Our theme for this service today has been all about sharing and we have some art work that has been prepared by the children of Dunnington Primary School, reception have provided some beautiful peacocks, year 1 have shared their patterns as have year 2, and year 2 have also created a friendship tree, year 3 have made some beautiful mosaics, year 5 has made some Anglo-Saxon money containers. We also have a lovely prayer to listen to, which is also about sharing which has been done by the reception children.

The prayer is about sharing and how it puts a smile on one's face.

Bible Reading: Luke 1 39-45 (a young person)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where

she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Talk (Judith)

May I speak in the name of the God who cares for us.

I am Judith Hewitt, the Reader in our group of churches. I have supported the Children's Society for over 50 years and taken many Christingle services. Like many things this year, we are online and it seems very strange not being able to have an interactive talk with you.

I wonder what you would be happy to share with other people, a meal, a book you enjoy reading, your toys or a skill you might have. I also wonder what you would **not** want to share with others, a special piece of equipment, a toy. Maybe this is something to think about later either on your own or with those you live with.

In our Bible reading Mary had some good news that she wanted to share with her cousin Elizabeth. Mary had just been told she was to have a special baby and as most mothers to be she wanted to share the news. No technology then to use so she had to make the journey, about fifty miles, probably on foot, to see her.

Elizabeth was also going to have a baby so they had lots to talk about as they prepared for the births of their special babies.

Both John, Elizabeth's son, and Jesus spent much of their lives sharing with others. John was sharing the news that Jesus was coming and people had to turn away from the wrong things they were doing and saying as someone greater than him was coming, and they must be ready for him.

When Jesus began to do the work God had for him he spent time sharing the good news that God loves us and cares about each one of us. He spent time with the sick, lonely and unloved as he knew they were important. His care for those people was an example for us to follow.

Jesus came to be the light of the world. He wants us to continue his work to share and to shine wherever we happen to be. It is the theme the Children's Society, have for this year.

So how can we shine? Do we always have to have a smile on our face, because that can be very hard and particularly this year when many will have found life very difficult.

During this pandemic many of us have been sharing our time with others, perhaps by going shopping, collecting medicines or ringing people we know who are on their own. We are doing this because we care for the people in our communities.

At the end of this service we will light our Christingle candle, or a candle you have with you. If we were in Church we would take the light from the advent candle and pass the light from one to another until all are lit. As we pass the light on we are also passing on the love Jesus has for each of us to our neighbour.

Candle light is very sensitive. If there is a draught the flame will flicker and possibly go out. There are times when we have to care for people and we have to be sensitive to their needs, to listen to what they are saying and to respond appropriately. Jesus was always aware of

the needs of those around him and he is aware of how we are feeling and is there to support and encourage us in our need.

Candle light is designed to be seen and is best placed high up so it can give light to all. In Matthew's gospel we are encouraged to shine in dark places and not to hide our light. We are to pass on the love of Jesus to everyone, to share the light and love.

We all have dark moments, when life is tough and it is hard to shine, The Children's Society is there for young people having a difficult time, they are sensitive to their needs. Hopefully we have people around us to help us through dark days. Maybe light a candle to remind us that Jesus as the light of the world is there for us in our dark times.

Our Christingles are very symbolic, they have a lot to tell us about life and about the love God has for each of us. Love that he wants us to share with others. Love that the Children's Society share with children and young people so they can live safe and happy lives.

Mary and Elizabeth, when their babies are born will be ready to share their joy and happiness with those around them. They will give them the love and care they need to grow into the men God want them to be.

The Children's Society often takes on the role of parents to troubled young people. Sharing, through the encouragement they give, God's love and care so the young people will shine with happiness.

Our Christingles, one of many thousands, will continue to remind us of all God gives to us day by day so that we can all share and shine as we go out and about in our communities.
Amen

Then We will now hear about the life-changing work of The Children's Society.

The Children's Society video

Intercessions (various children)

Child 1: The Christingle orange is round like the world we live in. So today we pray for all the people all around God's world, that they would know how much God loves them.
Amen.

Child 2: We pray that we will shine with the light of Christ in the world so that everyone can see.
Amen.

Child 3: We pray that through the kindness and care of others, everyone will come to know the light of Christ in their lives.
Amen.

Child 4: We pray that all those who lead us and look after us will be servants of the light of Christ in this world.
Amen.

Child 5: We pray that all hungry or homeless children will find comfort in the light of Christ.
Amen.

Child 6: We pray for all people who are sick or afraid, lonely or sad, that they may be cheered by the light of Christ.
Amen.

Child 7: We pray for the work of the Children's Society, bringing light and hope to children in

distress and trouble.

Amen.

Child 8: We bring our prayers together in the words Jesus taught us

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.

Lighting of the Christingles

Lord Jesus,
Light of the world,
I hold this Christingle as a sign of your love.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The candle, planted deep within the world,
as a sign that you made your home among us,
and lived with the poor and neglected.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth,
a sign of your love shown on the cross,
enfolding the whole world with your saving love.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The fruits and sweets, signs of all the good things you have made,
given to us that we might share them fairly
so everyone can have enough.

May we share your light in the darkness.

Lord Jesus,
Light of the World,
as I hold this Christingle
and think about your great love for me,
help me to take this light out into the world
and to share your love with others,
especially those who need it most.

Amen.

Hymn: Away in a manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
head.

The stars in the sky looked down where
he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

2. 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 cradle 'til morning is nigh.

3. 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 take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

Final words and blessing (Mark)

As we come to the end of our Christingle, may I remind you that if you are able, to make a donation to the excellent work of The Children's Society that can make such a difference to the lives of many children. Thank you.

And so to the Blessing

We go in peace

To share the peace of God with all we meet.

We go in love

To share God's gift of love with the world.

We go in the light of Christ

To shine as lights in the world.

To the glory of God the Father.

Amen.