

Christingle ‘Sample Service’

There is no such thing as a ‘one size fits all’ Christingle service. Christingle is celebrated in a variety of contexts and locations, and across a span of time ranging from Advent to Candlemas. Nevertheless, all good worship has a clearly defined structure which helps create a sense of flow and purpose. God’s people gather and prepare, they hear God’s word, and respond to it in action and prayer before being sent out to live the Christian Gospel.

The following outline for a Christingle Service shows the elements that should be present and the order in which they might come

An Outline for a Christingle Service

- Greeting
- Lighting of a Candle
- Thanksgiving
- Ministry of the Word
 - Reading
 - Talk or Address
- Offering of Gifts
- Prayers
- Lord's Prayer
- Lighting/Presentation of Christingles
- Ending/Blessing

The sample service below follows this structure and draws on the resource material in ‘Common Worship: Times and Seasons’

It tends to use Christmas seasonal material, but texts from the Advent or Epiphany provision in ‘Times and Seasons’ may be substituted if Christingle services are held other than in Christmastide.

¶ The Preparation

GREETING

Christ has brought us out of darkness:
to live in his marvellous light.

The minister may introduce the service

HYMN / SONG

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE*

[This may be a prominent Christingle, or a large candle, or the candles of the Advent wreath]*

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth:
Jesus is our King.

As a candle is lit
Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
Jesus is our Way.

With Jesus even dark places are light;
Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever:
Jesus is our Life.

[PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The minister introduces prayers of penitence in these or other appropriate words

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts,
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

(or)

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith:

One of these forms of confession may be used

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.

(or, for use with small children)

Father God,

we are sorry

for the things we do and say and think

which make you sad,

and for not thinking of others

before ourselves.

Please forgive us,

and help us to love you and other people

more and more. **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.]**

THANKSGIVING

One of the following forms may be used.

Today (*This night/day*) Christ is born:

Alleluia.

Today (*This night/day*) the Saviour comes:

Alleluia.

Today (*This night/day*) the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the Highest.

(or)

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;
born a child, you are one with us:
Glory to God in the highest.*

Glory to Christ, Son of David;
born to rule, you reign in our hearts:
Glory to God in the highest.*

Glory to Christ, Son of Man;
born to save, you are the light of the world:
Glory to God in the highest. *

** The words in bold may be sung, e.g. to the 'Peruvian Gloria'*

¶ The Ministry of the Word

One or more Readings from Scripture is read

This versicle and response may be used before the Reading

God's word is a lantern to our feet:
and a light to our path.

A Hymn or Song may follow the reading(s)

A Talk or Address is given

¶ The Offering of Gifts

A Hymn or Song may be sung as gifts are collected

The gifts may be presented with these words:

God of all goodness and grace,
receive the gifts we offer;

and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ The Prayers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following prayers are particularly suitable for use when small children are present. The prayers should be very simple, if possible drawing from the children the subjects for intercession.

Jesus, whose mother was Mary:
we pray for(families)
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, cradled in a manger:
we pray for(homeless, refugees)
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:
we pray for.....(the creation)
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:
we pray for(nations, races, peoples)
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, our Emmanuel:
we pray for.....(those in particular need)
Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

The prayers may include a prayer for the Children's Society, such as

Loving Lord,
we thank you for the Children's Society as it reaches out
to young people experiencing pain and injustice.
Guide and strengthen its work alongside children and young people
who are homeless and on the streets,
in prison or facing problems in the community.

Grant us the wisdom to listen to the voices of the young
and to recognise their gifts and insights.
Help us to work with them to create a fair and just society
where all may know the fullness of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[written by the Revd David Rhodes of The Children's Society]

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

(or)

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

¶ The Lighting / Presentation of Christingles

The Christingles are lit and / or presented

Hymns, songs or carols may be sung

The lighted Christingles may be carried in procession around the building

¶ The Sending Out

HYMN / SONG

BLESSING

One of the following forms may be used

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds
the good news of Jesus' birth.

Amen. We thank you Lord.

You have heard his story,
the story of God's own Son.

Amen. We thank you Lord.

May he fill you with joy
to bring this good news to others today.

Amen. We thank you Lord.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(or)

May God the Father keep you in all your days. **[Amen.]**

May God the Son shield you in all your ways. **[Amen.]**

May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace. **[Amen.]**

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light. **Amen.**

(or)

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

This service includes material taken from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, copyright
© The Archbishops' Council 2006