

Christingle Service from *The Promise of His Glory*

PREPARATION

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to . . . today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father 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.

The Christingle speaks of the world in which we live, and we pray today

for all Christians, that we may be mirrors of the light of Christ in the world;
for those who do not know the light of Christ in their lives;
for those who bear responsibility in our world for government, education, commerce, and communication;
for all children and for young people who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing;
for those who are in special need, the sick and anxious, the lonely and fearful, and for those who are bereaved.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing love of God, and say together, as Christ taught us

**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.**

May God our Father grant us the light of Christ, that we may shine with his love, be prompt to serve, and ever eager to follow in his steps, who is the true light and source of life. **Amen.**

HYMN

God whose love is everywhere
made our earth and all things fair,
ever keeps them in his care:
praise the God of love!
He who hung the stars in space
holds the spinning world in place;
praise the God of love!

Come with thankful songs to sing
of the gifts the seasons bring,
summer, winter, autumn, spring;
praise the God of Love!
He who gave us breath and birth
gives us all the fruitful earth;
praise the God of Love!

Mark what love the Lord displayed,
all our sins upon him laid,
by his blood our ransom paid;
praise the God of love!
Circled by that scarlet band
all the world is in his hand;
praise the God of love!

See the sign of love appear,
flame of glory, bright and clear,
light for all the world is here;
praise the God of love!
Gloom and darkness, get you gone!
Christ the Light of life has shone;
praise the God of love!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith

THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise
for Jesus Christ our Lord:
for he was the word before all creation.
Through him all things come to be,
not one thing has its being but through him.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

His life is the light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness cannot overpower.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was the true light coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

He came to his own, and they did not accept him.
But to all who accept him
he gives power to become children of God.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

To God our creator,
born as one of us,
be all praise and glory.
With all the company of heaven, we worship, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come;
to him be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading - *1 John 4.7-12*

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.
My dear people,
since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
but as long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.

At the beginning or end of each reading the reader may say

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

TALK

**Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!
From your hands we receive these gifts of your creation.
Bless us who bless your holy name,
and grant that we may be used
in the service of your kingdom.**

PRAYERS

In faith we pray:
We pray to you, our God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work:
**For our families, friends and neighbours, and for all those
who are alone.**

For the just and responsible use of your creation:
For the victims of hunger, fear and injustice.

For those in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble:
For those who minister to the sick, the lonely, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God:
For our own needs and for the needs of others.

Silence. The minister or people may add their own requests.

In faith we pray,
We pray to you, our God.
We thank you, Lord, for the blessings of this life.

Silence. The minister or people may add their own thanksgivings.

We give you thanks:
And praise your holy name.

God our Saviour,
**you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your disciples, 'You are the light of the world': grant that The Children's Society may bring light, hope and happiness to children, young people, and families who face particular darkness or need; help all staff members and volunteers to be inspired by your understanding and strengthened by your grace, that the care they give may be both a special support and a sign of your kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING AND PRESENTATION OF CHRISTINGLES

Father of lights,
from whom comes every good and perfect gift:
keep us in the light of Christ,
to shine in your world,
that all may believe in you
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

By the shedding of Christ's blood we are redeemed:
Praise to Christ our Saviour!

In Christ's death is our life:
Praise to Christ our Saviour!

CONCLUSION

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

God shines in your hearts:
Praise to Christ our light!

Christ is the light of the world!
Praise to Christ our light!

Go, in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others:
Praise to Christ our light!

The ministers and people process out of the church.

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