

Christingle and Informal Communion Service

7.30pm Christmas Eve: 24 December 2016



Welcome

The word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

CAROL: AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 you 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.

Call to Worship

One: Our waiting is done.

All: Christ is born.

One: Sing the joyful story –

All: Christ is born tonight

Opening Prayer:

We sing of our joy, dear God
and our gratitude for your gifts to us;
hope and peace,
joy and love,
and most of all, Christ,
light and life for all.
We thank you and praise you
with all of our hearts, our minds,
the depth of our being. **Amen.**

Jesus,

The source of hope

The way of peace

The author of joy

The King of love,

was born among us

and crept in beside us.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Our response

For unto us a child is given

Authority rests upon his shoulders

And he is named

Wonderful, Counsellor

Everlasting Prince of Peace.

Lighting the Christ candle,

Placing baby Jesus in the Bethlehem manger.

Making the Christingle

Christingle has its origins in Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The Bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon, in memory of the Saviour's coming which he said has kindled a flame in each heart which keeps burning "to His joy, and our happiness". Much later, this single candle was replaced by a more elaborate Christingle which is rich in symbolism.

Our modern Christingle consists of:

An orange . . . representing *the world*

A red ribbon, tied around the orange . . . *representing the cost to Jesus for his love*

fruits and sweets, skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange . . . *representing God's good gifts – the fruits of the earth and the four seasons and the four directions*

a candle, pushed into the centre of the orange . . . *representing Christ, the light of the world.*

CAROL: Greetings, little child of Bethlehem

Greetings, little child of Bethlehem
Greetings to the child in every mother's arms
Welcome to each other and all we wish to honour
Greetings, little child of Bethlehem



Bless the one who came to planet Earth
He grew up and spread good news to all he led
All the children loved him He talked with them and hugged them
Bless the one who came to planet Earth

Happy Christmas, Child of Bethlehem
Happy Christmas all around the world today
Greetings to each culture and every living creature
Happy Christmas, Child of Bethlehem.

Prayer of Intercession

We come before you, Christmas child, in silent amazement.
May we welcome you among us.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As Mary welcomed you and rejoiced in God's holiness and mercy,
we pray for the church and our celebration of 202 years of Christian
faith in New Zealand.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As shepherds welcomed you, disturbing their work and lives,
we pray for your presence in our world, bringing good news.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As Joseph welcomed you, giving you a home and a name,
we pray for all who seek shelter in our community tonight.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As angels welcomed you, singing of glory and peace,
we pray for all who seek healing and hope. We remember people
waiting for surgery and others who are having ongoing treatment.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As Simeon welcomed you, recognising in you his journey's
fulfilment,
we pray for those who have died and for all who love them and miss
them

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

As wise men welcomed you, risking a journey and following a star,
we pray for all who are travelling in this season
New Zealand.

Child of Bethlehem,
Hear our prayers

The love of God is in us:
The spirit of joy is with us, Emmanuel, Jesus, now and always.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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

Give us this day our daily bread

Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Leader The Peace of the Lord be with you.

All And with you and the world

Share the peace

Offertory Hymn: **SILENT NIGHT**

(during which a collection is taken)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round the virgin and her child
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light'
Radiant beams your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

A Great Thanksgiving

God is here

We praise God together.

Let us say thank you to God

Who has done so much for us.

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.

All the good we see comes from you

you have always loved us

but people have not always loved you,

you sent Jesus to show us how to live

and to bring us back to you again.

(Sing) **Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

He died for us on the cross

so that through your Spirit

we can all be your people.

And so with thanks we praise you.

(Sing) **O come let us adore him**



O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

We are here because the night before he died
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

There he took some bread
and gave thanks to you, God.

He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.

“This is my body,” he said.

“Do this, and know that I am with you.”

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you

He shared it with them, and said

“This is my blood, which brings new life.

Do this, and know that I am with you.”

And so, remembering Jesus, who died,
was raised to new life by you,

and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in Him.

Send your Holy Spirit

so that this bread and wine

can be for us the body and blood of Jesus,

and through this food

give us strength to live as your people.

(Sing) **Come and worship, Christ, the new born King;**

Come and worship, worship Christ the new born

King.

Help us care for your world and for each other
in the way that Jesus showed us.

Until he comes again,

with all your people

in every time and every land,

we worship you and say:

We praise you.

We thank you.

We bless you.

Amen

We break this bread to share the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body

for we all share the one bread.

We share communion. All are welcome.

Christingle Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ, light a torch in our hearts,
a fire in our eyes, a flame in our hearts,
a candle in our lives. Shine on us, in us
and through us, to your glory. Amen.**

CAROL JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Christmas Day Service - St Georges 9.00



***Have a blessed day tomorrow
Services are as usual during summer. Phone 078263723***

