

*St. Augustine's Christingle Service 24 December 2003*

Welcome

*Please stand to sing the Carol :*

Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world ! – the Lord is come !  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. 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.
3. 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, and wonders of His love.

About the CHRISTINGLE

The Christingle is a custom that started in Moravia, and has now spread to many other parts of the world.

The Christingle is made of :

- The orange to remind us of God's creation;
- The red ribbon to remind us of the life and work of His Son Jesus;
- The candle to remind us of the light of Jesus;
- The fruits to remind us of the blessings which flow from God to us.

In this service we shall be thinking particularly about the red ribbon of Jesus's ministry, and we shall put up a red ribbon round the church to remind us of Jesus's birth, life, death and resurrection.

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**The orange** God's love shown to us through His creation

Reading :

selections from *Genesis* chapter 1

God's creation

<i>We join</i>	light and darkness water, land and sky plants, grain and fruit sun, the moon and the stars creatures that live in the waters birds that fly in the air creatures both large and small	<i>to the red ribbon</i>
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Please stand to sing the hymn : For the beauty of the earth.

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| <p>1. For the beauty of the earth,<br/>For the beauty of the skies,<br/>For the love which from our birth<br/>Over and around us lies,<br/>Lord of all, to You we raise<br/>This our grateful hymn of praise.</p> | <p>2. For each perfect gift of thine,<br/>To our race so freely given,<br/>Graces human and divine,<br/>Flowers of earth and buds of<br/>heaven.<br/>Lord of all, to You we raise<br/>This our grateful hymn of praise.</p> |
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Please sit or kneel for the prayers

Leader Thank You, Lord God, for the wonders of Your creation.

People **Help us to be good stewards of this world.**

Leader Thank You for Your Son Jesus, whose birth we are celebrating.

People **Help us to be like Him.**

Leader Thank You for Your provision and blessings

People **Help us to use and share all things wisely.**

Leader Thank You for the wonderful love that You have for all peoples.

People **Help us to share Your love with everyone we meet.**

Leader Teach us to be Your light shining wherever we go.

People **Teach us, Lord !**

**The red ribbon** God's love in Jesus's life and work on earth

Please sit for the reading

Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Birth of Jesus

<i>We join</i>	Joseph Mary Jesus	<i>to the red ribbon</i>
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Please stand to sing the 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 Thee 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.**

Please sit

Luke 2 : 8-16 Angels announce the Birth

Matthew 2 : 1-12 Wise Men bring their gifts

Matthew 3 : 13-17 Jesus is baptised

Mark 3 : 7-9 The people follow Jesus

Mark 9 : 20-22 Jesus heals and forgives

John 14 : 27 Jesus preaches peace

Jesus showed us how to live

<i>We join</i>	an angel shepherds a star Jesus baptised Jesus's teaching Jesus's healing forgiveness the dove of peace people helping	<i>to the red ribbon</i>
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Please stand to sing the Carol :

The first Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winters night that was so deep.

*Chorus :*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.

*Chorus*

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

*Chorus*

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Chorus*

5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Chorus*

6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

*Chorus*

Please sit.

The Apostles' creed

Jesus's death on the cross for us;

Jesus brings God's love to all.

*The ribbon is complete !*

*Greeting !*

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**The fruits**

God's love in His provision and His blessing

*Please sit or kneel for the prayer*

*Leader :* Thank You, Lord, for Your wonderful provision,

Thank You for food and shelter, in the midst of our plenty we remember and pray for those who are hungry and without shelter, teach us how to share our goods with others.

Thank You, Lord, for families and friends, help us to be people who reach out to those who are friendless.

Thank You, Lord, for Your wonderful blessings of love, joy and peace, help us to be peacemakers in our families and community.

Thank You, Lord, for Your Son Jesus Whose birthday we celebrate now; may we learn to know Him better.

*All :* **Amen**

*Please sit*

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**The candle**

God's light shining in the life of Jesus.

*Reflection :*

The Red Ribbon.

*We join*

The cross  
Every race  
Every nation  
Every person  
Through all time

*to the red ribbon*

Making the CHRISTINGLE

*Please stand for*

the Christingle Carol

*Chorus :*

*Christingle, Christingle, pretty little ball,  
Telling us of Jesus and His love for us all.*

1. The orange so round is the world that God made,  
All people and creatures, the sun and the shade –  
A beautiful orb in God's limitless space,  
Its future ensured by God's limitless grace.

*Chorus*

2. The ribbon so red that encircles the ball  
Is the blood Jesus shed through his love for us all  
When He died on the cross that our sins be forgiven  
So that we might at last be His children in heaven.

*Chorus*

3. The good things to eat bring us joy with each bite  
As the love Jesus gives fills our hearts with delight;  
We pass on that love in the kindness and care  
We show to all those whom we meet everywhere.

*Chorus*

4. The candle above is the wonderful light  
Jesus brings to our life leading us to the right;  
He was born to bring hope to all people on earth –  
Thank God for our Lord at the time of His birth !

*Chorus*

*Putting the Christingle together, and lighting it.*

*We sing, twice :*

Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy Birthday dear Jesus –  
Happy Birthday to You.

*Blessing the Christingle.*

**C a n d l e s   o u t !**

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers*

*Leader :* Thank You, Jesus, for all that You have done for us; teach us to follow You.

Thank You for our friends and families; help us to love and support each other throughout the coming year.

We pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, remembering those who are sick, in need or in trouble; may they know Your peace, comfort and healing.

We pray for war-torn areas. We ask that You would raise up peace-makers who would be able to work for peace wherever it is needed.

Help us, Jesus, to be Your peacemakers wherever we are.

*All :* **Amen**

*We sing the Lord's Prayer :*

**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;  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen**

*Please stand for the Carol*

Silent Night

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|---|---|
| 1. Silent night, Holy night,<br>All is calm, all is bright,<br>Round yon Virgin Mother and<br>child,<br>Holy infant so tender and mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace;<br>Sleep in heavenly peace. | 2. Silent night, holy night,<br>Shepherds quake at the sight,<br>Glories stream from heaven afar<br>Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;<br>Christ the Saviour is born,<br>Christ the Saviour is born. |
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3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, loves pure light,  
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Blessing

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*Those taking part :*

*Names  
omitted*



We wish you and all those near to you  
a most blessed and holy Christmas.

May the peace of God,  
the love of His Son,  
and the fellowship of His Holy Spirit  
be with you all.