



Hornsea URC Christingle Service

13th December 2020

Welcome to our Christingle Service

We are in the 3rd week in Advent so if you have a candle please light it now.

Opening sentences:

With the light of this candle

we remember Jesus the light of the world

He is here with each one of us now and with all our friends and families in their homes today.

Our 1st hymn is: [Shine Jesus Shine](#)

Let us pray:

A Christingle reflection

A candle can't light itself; it needs to receive light from another.

Father God, thank you for the light Jesus brings to us and the light we can pass on to one another.

A candle can give away light without losing the light it has.

Father God, thank you that you give us so much love that we can give it away to others without losing what we already have.

A candle's light is the same no matter what size or shape or colour the candle is.

Father God, thank you that no matter who we are we can be of service to you and to one another.

A candle burns as brightly at the end of its life as it does at the beginning.

Father God, thank you that whatever age we are we can still be used by you to be a light for each other.

At the heart of the candle's light there is a kind of death as the wax melts and the wick is burned up.

Father God, thank you that Jesus was prepared to die on the cross so we could be forgiven and become sharers of His light.

A candle flame burns upwards while it sheds its light outward.

Father God, help us to put you first every day and in every situation so the light from our flame grows tall, sending out more light to others. Amen.

Our 2nd hymn is [Christ Shine a Light](#)



Now we will make our Christingles!

Christingle actually means 'Christ-Light', so Christingle celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world.

The earliest record of a Christingle service was in 1747 in a Moravian church in Germany. The Moravian Bishop, John De Waterville, gave each child a lighted candle tied round with a red ribbon as a way of illustrating the great love Jesus has for us all.

I think most of you will have received a bag with all the bits you need to make your Christingle. If you haven't you could make one after the service.

First we start with an **orange**. The orange is round like the world and reminds us that God made the world. He's our creator. He made everything sun, moon, stars, light and dark and He deserves all our praise and glory for doing such a wonderful job.

Now we need to cut a hole in the top of the orange with a knife. Please be careful.

Next we take our **candle** which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

In John 8 Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Jesus birth which we celebrate at Christmas is like lighting of the candle. (Light my candle)

When Jesus was crucified by evil men on Good Friday, they thought they had put out the light of the world for good. (blow out)

And it seemed for 3 days that the light had been put out and the world was in darkness.

However, God brought the light back (re light) when He raised Jesus from the dead on Easter Day and every Christmas we are reminded by our Christingle that Jesus continues to shine in the darkness.

Now wrap the end of your candle in the foil and put it into the top of your orange.

The **Red Ribbon** is next. This is to remind us of the blood Jesus shed on the cross for us all.

It says in 1 Peter 3:18 'For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God.'

The ribbon wrapped around the world as a sign of Christ's blood poured out on the cross enfolding the whole world with His saving love.

Wrap your ribbon around the middle of the orange and pin it in place.

Last of all comes the **fruit** and four cocktail sticks, this reminds us of the 4 different seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter, and of all the good things God has provided.

The fruit reminds us of the fruit of the spirit, Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we follow Jesus we must bear this good fruit in all the seasons of our lives.

Now put the fruit and sweets onto your sticks and push them into the orange one on each side. You might want to leave one stick empty to remind us that while some of us are very blessed with all that we need there are parts of the world where people still go hungry.

Well done your Christingle is complete.

You might like to light them as we sing our next hymn.

Our 3rd hymn is [Sing Christingle](#).

Now we will blow out our candles and save them for our prayers later in the service.

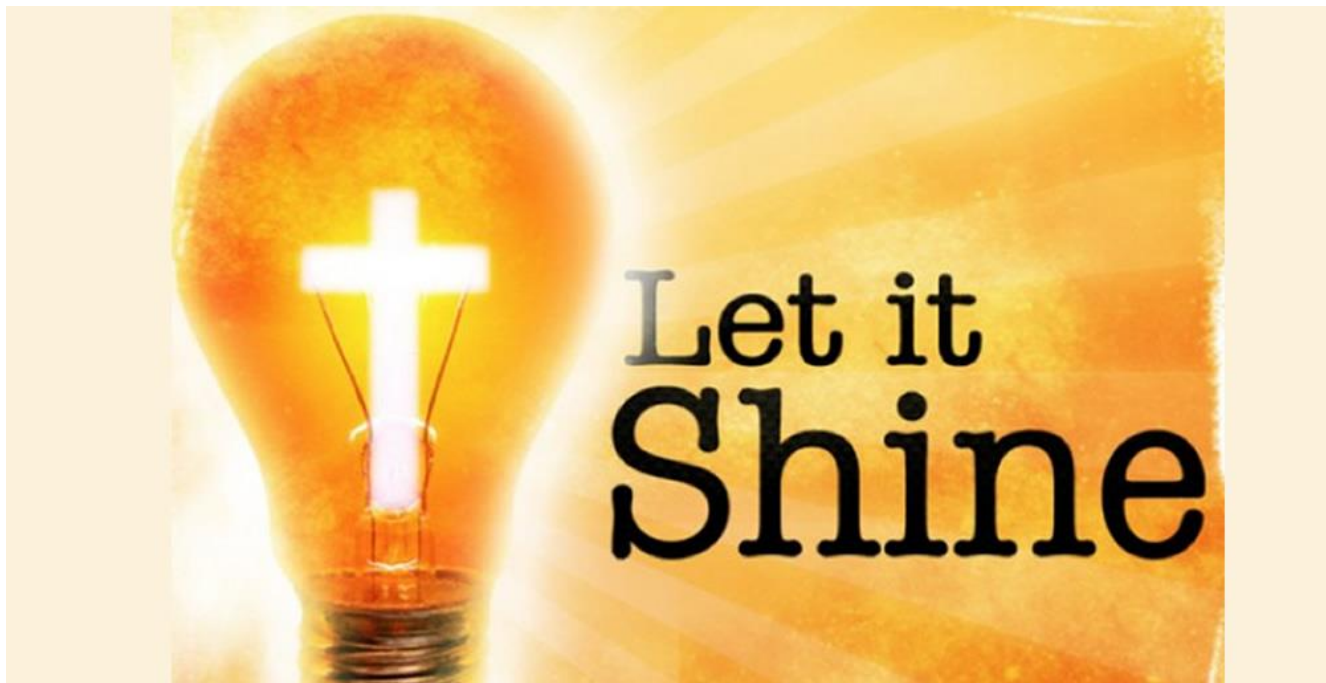
Our Bible readings today are Matthew 5:14-16 and John 8:12

John 8 v12 The Message

¹² Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."

Matthew 5 14:16 The Message

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.



Jesus came to show us how to live, to build a relationship with us and to be a light in the darkness.

As we heard in our reading he also calls us to shine a light for Him. To bring out the God-colours in the world.

It says God is not a secret to be kept to ourselves but to be shared with everyone. Jesus is Gods gift to us, a gift that should be shared.

We should shine like beacons!

Perhaps more so this year, our church building is closed, people are saying Christmas is cancelled!

It is more important than ever that we show people that we are still here and we WILL be celebrating the true reason of Christmas.

At church we will be putting our Christmas tree outside in the garden and there will be an opportunity for people to add a prayer ribbon to the tree. Our porch and window will be decorated and lit. Our services will be advertised and available to all digitally.

It would be easy this year to say 'lets not bother, we can't celebrate together' but we need to let people know we are celebrating the greatest gift ever given.

So, send those cards, decorate your tree, put lights or candles in your window let everyone know Christmas is NOT cancelled!

We should be God's presence among the presents!

Most importantly, make room for Jesus at Christmas and in the new year. He is God's gift to you – don't leave this gift unwrapped.

As we prepare for communion we can sing or listen to our next hymn.

Our 4th hymn is: ['Carry your candle'](#)

Communion

As this is the second Sunday in the month, it is our usual custom to share Communion together. You can watch/partake via the link : [CLICK HERE](#) (you will need to prepare your own bread and wine/juice should you wish to partake)

Prayers - light your Christingle

Poverty – Lord around the world there are so many people who have no homes or money, please help them this Christmas

Christ Shine Your Light

Hunger – Lord we are so lucky that we have plenty to eat. Please help us to remember all those children across the world who will die this year because they have no food.

Christ Shine Your Light

Sickness – Lord we pray for all those who are suffering, especially for all the patients with Coronavirus. We pray for all the families who are grieving and for the medical staff working so hard in such difficult situations.

Christ Shine Your Light

Prayer book – Now we pray for our friends and families and for those in our fellowship needing help at this time.

Christ Shine Your Light into all our lives today. Amen

Our final hymn is: [This little light of mine](#)

Closing prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we once again prepare for Christmas

Help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet thought and prayer

May we reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviours birth

To penetrate our hearts and minds.

So that our joy may be deeper and our worship more real

And our lives worthier of all that you have done for us

Through the coming of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen