

Welcome

to our Christingle Carol Service which has been shortened due to the coronavirus.

The word 'Christingle' means Christ-light, and the tradition originated in the Moravian Church in 1747.

There are a number of symbols associated with the Christingle which will be explained during the service but the predominant theme is:

Christ, the light of the world.

The Christingle consists of:

- an orange representing the world with
- a red ribbon around it representing the blood of Jesus (i.e. his death on the cross for our sins),
- sweets skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons
- a lighted candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Jesus describes himself in the Bible, in John chapter 8 v. 12, in this way: *'I am the Light of the World, if you follow me you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life'* (New Living Translation)
- and, in some services, as we do here, tin foil around the base of the candle to reflect Christ's light and goodness

Face Masks

As per government guidelines, please wear a face covering in church. Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading but must observe social-distancing whilst doing so.

Contact Tracing

We are obliged to get the contact details of everyone who attends this service. These will only be used in the event of someone attending the service being diagnosed with Covid-19, in which event, they will be passed to the health authorities for Contact Tracing purposes. Please complete the form which is available at the church doors and drop into the box provided. If they are not required for Contact Tracing purposes, they will be destroyed after 28 days.

Singing

We have been instructed that while choirs can sing as long as they are socially distanced from each other and that children's choirs operate in pods, that the members of the congregation are not to sing, shout, chant or raise their voices to each other!

Over the past few weeks, there has been some 'musical muttering into masks'! The organist, is going to play the tune of the hymns chosen for this service and I invite you to reflect upon the words which have been included in this service sheet as you listen to the music.

**The Gathering of God's People -
Welcome and Greeting**

*Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.*

Opening Responses for a Christingle Service

*It is nearly Christmas!
Wow!*

*Six more sleeps and it is Christmas Day.
Wow!*

So, let us celebrate Christ coming as the light of the world, symbolised by the Christingles.

Let us enjoy this time together, and let us celebrate!

**Hymn No. 155 (Branle de l'Official)**

*Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
ding dong! Verily the sky
is riv'n with angels singing:*

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

*E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen:*

Pray you dutifully prime
 your matin chime, ye ringers;
 may you beautifully rime
 your evetime song, ye singers:

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Today, the members of the Sunday Club are putting a scallop shell for John the Baptist, a white lily for Mary, a mother and child for Elizabeth, a pencil and tablet for Zechariah, a carpenter's square and hammer for Joseph, and a star for the Wisemen, on the tree.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath, or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. The Advent Wreath is traditionally a Lutheran practice, albeit it has spread to many other Christian denominations. It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the centre. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Some Advent wreaths include a fifth, white "Christ" candle which can be lit at Christmas. The custom is

observed both in family settings and at public church services.

4 candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.

We light the fourth candle of Advent to celebrate Mary, who brought Jesus into the world to show us the humanity of God to the world.

We light the fourth candle of Advent for ourselves, for we, too, are called to work with God to bring his love to the world.



Four Candles (Frère Jacques)

[Repeat each line]

*Four candles
 burning slow.
 Advent days of waiting,
 six to go!*

We are waiting,

watching too.
 Soon it will be Christmas,
 for me and you.



The Blessing of the Crib

O God, out of your love for us, you sent your beloved Son to become a man; human just like us. He was born in a stable, with no frills and no fuss; ordinary just like us. We thank you for this crib; we thank you for those who made it and for those who set it up here. Bless this crib, which reminds us of his birth, and reminds us that through him, you are one of us. May all who see be filled with wonder; may it brighten hearts and lighten burdens; may it bring joy, and may it inspire; as we celebrate the birth of Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn No. 149 - Away in a Manger

[Verse 1]

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 in the
 hay.

The Collect of the 4th Sunday in Advent

God our redeemer,
 who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary
 to be the mother of your Son:
 grant that, as she looked for his
 coming as our saviour,
 so we may be ready to greet him
 when he comes again as our judge;
 who is alive and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Hymn No. 149 - Away in a Manger

[Verse 2]

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.



[Please sit]

The Reading - Luke 2: 1-7

(The Message Version)

The reading is from the gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 1 to 7.

2 About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

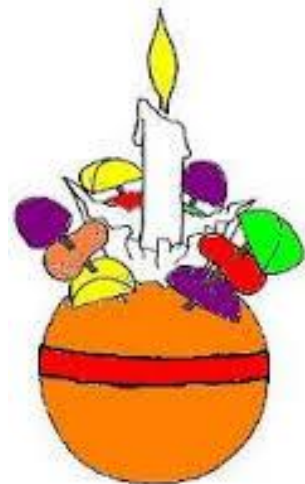
Hymn No. 149 - Away in a Manger

[Verse 3]

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]

The Christingles



The Orange

The orange represents the world. The world held lovingly in God's hands, from the beginning of time, and every day and night until God's work is done.

The Red Ribbon or Red Strip of Paper

The red ribbon represents Jesus Christ giving his life for the world.

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we see God loving the world and changing people's lives for good.

The Fruits or Jellytots

Through bread and wine made from the fruits of the earth, Jesus showed us how he would save us.

Through food and drink, God has always shown people how he loves them.

The Tin Foil

The tin foil around the base of the candle reflects Christ's light and goodness. We too can reflect the light of Christ and make it brighter, by caring for others.

The Candle

The candle represents Christ, who is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness.

The light cannot be put out.

***We have come from the east,
the north, the west and the south.
And together we ask that the light
that we search for
may light our way in love,
this day, this Christmas
and in the days to come. Amen.***

Lighting of the Christingles

***Parents/guardians – please note
that your child's safety is your
responsibility.***



Hymn - When a Child is Born

[Verses 1 -2]

A ray of hope flickers in the sky.
A tiny star lights up way up high.
All across the land dawns a bright new
morn

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

A silent wish sails the seven seas.
The winds of change whisper in the
trees.

And the walls of doubt crumble
tossed and torn.

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

[Please sit or kneel]

The Prayers

As the lit candles on the Christingles
will light up our faces, so, loving

Jesus, may your light shine into our lives.

Shine brightly in the darkness to bring us security and peace, to bring us hope and joy.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the red ribbon surrounds our Christingles, we thank you, Lord, that you surround us with your love. Circle us with your care each day and night; thank you that we are always in your thoughts.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

May the Christingles remind us to shine as lights in the world, bringing hope and joy to those who are in darkness.

May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts so that we may bring love and peace into our world.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will be having a retiring collection; there are baskets at the doors of the church in which you may place your collection or envelope. You may wish to donate to the church online or electronically and the treasurers

would be happy to give you the required details.

Hymn - When a Child is Born

[Verses 3-4]

A rosy dawn settles all around.
You got the feel you're on solid ground.

For a spell or two, no one seems forlorn.

This comes to pass when a child is born.

It's all a dream, an illusion now.

It must come true sometime soon somehow.

All across the land, dawns a brand new morn.

This comes to pass when a child is born.



The Blessing

May God wrap us in integrity,
clothe us in salvation,
and adorn us with beauty and joy.

And may the blessing of God,
Protector, Perfecter and Spirit of Joy,
surround us all our nights and days.

Amen.

May the hope, the joy, the love and the peace of Jesus Christ be with you and all your family this Christmas-time and always.



Forthcoming Services

Tonight – Sunday 19th December 2021

19.00 Carols by Candlelight with RTÉ Cór na nÓg – St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed) (2 pods available)

Wednesday 22nd December 2021

10.30 Holy Communion – St Thomas' Church



Friday 24th December 2021 - Christmas Eve

21.30 The First Holy Communion of Christmas – St Thomas' Church

23.30 Midnight Holy Communion - St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)



Saturday 25th December 2021 – Christmas Day

8.30 Holy Communion - St Thomas' Church

**10.30 Family Holy Communion – St Philip and St James' Church
(live-streamed) (fully booked out)**

Sunday 26th December 2021 – St Stephen's Day

8.30 Holy Communion - St Thomas' Church

10.30 Holy Communion - St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*

