

Putnoe Heights Church Christingle Service

8 December 2002

We welcome you all to our service today. We welcome especially all the children from our pre-schools who have come to share in this service and their families.

Welcome & Verse from Scripture

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"-- "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Call to Worship

Leader: Lord of life –
All: Feed me this day
Leader: - Lord of life
All: Fill me this day
Leader: Lord of light
All: Lead me this day
Leader: Lord of all
All: Keep me in your way
Now and for ever

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace.

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle of hope in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was



born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.
(A person lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope)

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.
(A person lights Second Candle, the Candle of Peace)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Hymn

We have come into his house 729 (Mission Praise)

Prayer of Approach

God you came to your people in the past.
Through the wilderness you guided them;
When they were lost, you searched for them;
When they were in exile, you brought them back home.
For your love which stays close:

All: We praise you, God

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God you come to your people now.
In worship, you speak to us;
In our journey through life, you go with us;
When we look for a way, we see it in Jesus.
For your love which calls us to follow
All: We praise you, God.



God you will come to your people in the future.
When times are uncertain, your promises remain;
Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven;
Your whole creation will be made new.
For your love which holds us forever:
All: We praise you, God

Prayer of Confession

Lord sometimes we block your way of love.
Clear a path: **Prepare the way of the Lord**

When we are selfish and thoughtless;
When we hurt others by what we say and do;
Forgive us.
Clear a path: **Prepare the way of the Lord.**

When we are timid and fearful;
When we shrink from the challenge to follow you;
Forgive us.
Clear a path: **Prepare the way of the Lord**

When we are divided from one another;
When we are so sure that we are right
That we stop listening to those who think differently
Forgive us.
Clear a path: **Prepare the way of the Lord**

*(The basket of stones, collected from the path,
are brought forward and placed on the table)*

**Lord we come to you as we are
Forgive the things in us which resist your love.
Help us to be your people, preparing your way. Amen**

Hymn

Make Way, Make Way MP 457

The Children of Preschool

Bible Readings

Isaiah: 40 1-11 & Mark 1. 1-8

(These readings may be followed on your bible notes)



After each reading,

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All : **Thanks be to God**

Hymn

(Song from Big Blue Planet)

Come Lord Jesus Come x 3
To this world of ours

Lord we need you now x3
In this world of ours

Fill us with your peace x3
In this world of ours

Touch us with your love x3
In this world of ours

May we see your light x3
In this world of ours

Reading

Ready for Christmas by David Pape

Address
Eileen Goddard

Dedication of Christingles

- Leader:** Will you take this Christingle as a reminder of the light of Christ in your home?
- All:** **We will**
- Leader:** Will you take the light of Christ within you, and seek to share that light in the places where you work, meet and share together?
- All:** **We will with the help of the Holy Spirit of God**
- Leader:** Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- All:** **Father of all, may we, whom the Spirit lights,
Give light to the world.
Alleluia, thanks be to God**

Hymn

The orange of Christingle, the world reminds us of,
And how our God created us, and on us sheds his love.

*O sing about Christingle,
Your voices loud employ.
Your praises bring to God our King;
For Jesus and his joy.*

The candle of Christingle, with shining flame so bright;
Reminds us of our loving Lord, who is the world's true light.

The red band of Christingle, which plainly we can see;
Reminds us of how Jesus Christ, was killed upon that tree.

The four sticks of Christingle, with which the orb we spear,
Remind us how God cares for us, thro' the seasons of the year.

The whole of the Christingle, it is a joy to see;
It shines to show how our Father God, loves even you and me.

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Prayers

followed by 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.
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.

The offering

Thank you for your gifts to the work of this church. If you are a tax payer please use the envelopes provided and write your name in the space provided, this enables us to reclaim tax and increases your gift at no cost to you. Thank you to those who have made their offering through the bank by standing order or through weekly envelopes.

All stand as the Offering is brought forward.

All: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Hymn

- 1 Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels give the sign.
- 2 Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3 Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all the world,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

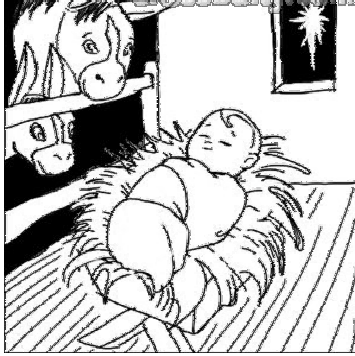
Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) (Page 6)

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus you have taught us that love is the fulfilling of the law.
Help us to know better what love really is – Lord give me the courage and the
generosity of spirit To accept the way of love and to walk in it by your Grace, today,
tomorrow and for the whole of the rest of my life

Blessing

Thank you to all of those who helped share in our in our service today.
Our special thanks to those who prepared the Christingles.



Join us for
Christmas
at
Putnoe Heights
Church

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22 December 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service

Tuesday 24 December 4.00pm

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

Christmas Morning Family Worship

Christmas Day 11.00am

For more details contact the church office 3656303
or visit our website www.ThisChurch.com