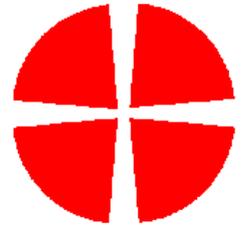


# St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church Christingle Service 2003



## Welcome



### Opening Verse of Scripture James 1:17

'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'

### Opening Words

Minister: We have come together in the presence of God to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in

prayer and song.

**All: O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**  
( *Please use words on back page* )

**Hymn** (Tune: bransle de L'official)

Ding! dong! merrily on high  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding! dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below,  
et steeple bells be swungen,  
and 'lo, io, io!  
By priest and people sungen:  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers!  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers!  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

### **Confession**

**All**     **Almighty God, our heavenly Father**  
**we have sinned against you and against each other,**  
**in thought and word and deed,**  
**through negligence, through weakness**  
**through our own deliberate fault.**  
**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**who died for us forgive us all that is past;**  
**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life**  
**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The minister will declare the word of forgiveness using these or other words*

May the Father of all mercies cleanse *you* from *your* sins,  
and restore *you* in his image to the praise and glory of his  
name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**     **Amen.**

Minister    O Lord, open our lips

**All**     **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,**  
**and to the Holy Spirit:**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now,**  
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## The Offering

*Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank. If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax. Please stand as the Offering is brought forward.*

**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

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.....

*Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by Your blood I may enter Your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.....

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.....

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Glory to Christ, Son of Mary; born a child,  
you share our humanity:

**All: Glory to God in the highest.**

Minister: Glory to Christ, Son of David;  
born to rule, you receive gifts from the wise;

**All: Glory to God in the highest.**

Minister: Glory to Christ, Son of Man;  
born our Saviour, you are the light of the world:

**All: Glory to God in the highest.**

Minister: We celebrate the coming of our God  
with all the voices of heaven:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Bible Readings

*You may follow the Bible readings on page 6 of the  
Partnership News*



*After the Bible reading the reader will say*

**All** This is the word of the Lord.  
**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.

## Sermon

The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

## Hymn

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you.  
You will never sink beneath the waves.

When the fire is burning all around you  
you will never be consumed by the flames

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger  
remember you are precious in my eyes

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,  
and I love you with a perfect love.

## THE PRAYERS

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## Hymn *(Tune Cranham)*

In the bleak mid-winter,  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter,  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Throngèd the air;  
But His mother only,  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him-  
Give my heart. *Christina G Rossetti (1830-1894)*

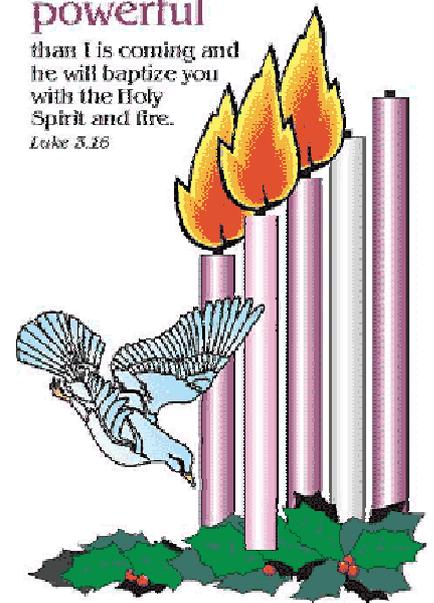
### **The Blessing**

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Third Candle - The Candle of Love John The Baptist

One who is more  
powerful

than I is coming and  
he will baptize you  
with the Holy  
Spirit and fire.  
*Luke 3:16*



Leader: Light and peace,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: Today is the Third Sunday of  
Advent and we will light the Candle of  
Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it  
and the Candle of Hope again as we remember  
Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.  
*(A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace.)*

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their  
old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John  
spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and  
prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share  
what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love.  
He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and  
find God's forgiveness.

*(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this  
candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Lord God, your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in  
spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He  
loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to  
wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we  
would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of  
your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to  
be ready to welcome him.**