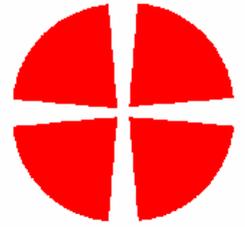


Putnoe Heights Church

Christingle Service 2005



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

Third Candle - The Candle of Love (Purple Candle)

John The Baptist

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 now 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 Elizabeth 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 God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person now 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.

Hymn

On Jordans Bank the Baptist Cry 84 (Tune Winchester New)

StoryBox Plus

Presents 'The bad Apple'

Nativity and Choir sings 'Away in a Manger' and 'Silent Night'

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.**



Light Of The World

Christingle – meaning 'Christ Light' – is a symbol of the Christian Faith.

Hymn

1 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

2 Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

3 Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

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

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.



Bible Readings

*You may follow the Bible readings in Partnership News
After the Bible reading the reader will say*

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Mr Howard Connell

Hymn

When Jesus came to Jordan 132 (Tune Cruger)

The Making of Christingles

With the help of the Holy Spirit of God, take this Christingle as a reminder of the light of Christ in your home. Take the light of Christ within you, and seek to share that light in the places where you go. 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.

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Christingle – 'Christ Light'

For many years churches all over the world have made Christingles to remind them that Christ is the light who came into the world at Christmas.

The Christingle orange represents the world, John reminds us that 'Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him'. (Jn 1 v 10 – 11).

The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us so that our sins may be forgiven. 'But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin'. (1 Jn 1 v 7).

The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'. (Gen 8 v 22).

The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. 'He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".' (John 8 v 12).

Christingle originated from the Moravian church in Germany and was established in 1467. It was used in a service in Marienborn in Germany in 1747.



Hymn

1 Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim.
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

2 Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!

We turn to Christ from all
unnumbered voices with
the living water for our
in Christ to live, and love



our restless striving,
a single prayer:
souls' reviving,
and serve and care.

3 Lord of the church, we long
true to one calling, by one
one cross proclaiming and

for our uniting,
vision stirred;
one creed reciting,