**Background to Christingle and the Christingle Service**

A Christingle is a symbolic object used in the Advent services of many Christian denominations. Christingle means *'Christ Light'* and celebrates Jesus Christ as the “Light of the World” (*John 8:12*). The Christ Light (Christingle) although it is primarily used during the Advent and Christmas seasons, may also be used for Epiphany.

Although Christingle services have been taking place for nearly 50 years, the genesis of the Christingle actually began in Germany around 1747 as children’s service, with a simple way of explaining the happiness that had come to people through Jesus. The children were given a symbol to do this. This symbol was a lit candle wrapped in a red ribbon. At the end of the service, while the children held their candles, the prayer, *‘Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become’* was said.

The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service and are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. Each part of the Christingle has special symbolism which helps children to understand and appreciate the importance of Jesus and the Gospel, Jesus’ relevance especially at Christmas time and as light of the world.

The orange represents the world. The red ribbon (or tape) the represents love symbolised by the shed blood of Christ wrapping the world. The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God’s creation harvested from the four poles of the earth: North, South, East and West. The lit candle in the middle represents Jesus as light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Be practical in the celebration of the Christingle this Advent or Christmas-tide. Identify a charity or a specific need in your community and invite our children to decorate a shoe box or a small basket and put gifts that are presented and blessed at the altar. Then team with the children to present these gifts to the charity you identified. Make this a Christ-centred Christmas.

The benefits that Christingle has brought to our charity are immeasurable in terms of the enthusiasm, inspiration and joy that these services generate.

**PREPARATION**

*The minister greets the people using these or other appropriate words.*

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! ***All: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel***,

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel. ***All: Who is with us, smiling upon us with love***

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! ***All: Who sent Christ to save us from our enemies, our sins, and our fears.***

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! ***All: Who is Spirit and dwells among us, giving light for our darkness***.

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! ***All: To whom we now offer worship, praise and thanksgiving***

***The BIDDING:***

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to our Christingle service today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father 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.

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. The Christingle speaks of the world in which we live, and we pray today for all Christians, that we may be mirrors of the light of Christ in the world; for those who do not know the light of Christ in their lives; for those who bear responsibility in our world for government, education, commerce, and communication; for all children and for young people who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing; for those who are in special need, the sick and anxious, the lonely and fearful, and for those who are bereaved.

As we reflect on the past year, we see a year flooded in tears and disappointment. Peace initiatives often failed; and poverty, hunger, oppression, and violence continue to haunt us. Yet, God offers us the promise that our fortunes will be restored. We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing love of God, and say together:

***ALL: 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,***

***and the power, and the glory,***

***for ever and ever. Amen.***

L: Let us now 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**

Priest: Let us confess our sins: **All: We confess those times when we have failed to bring light into the world around us. We are sorry for those things which we have done which have hurt others or damaged the world in which we live.**

Priest: God our Father grant us the light of Christ, that we may shine with his love, be prompt to serve as He has set the example, and be ever eager to follow in his steps, who is the true light and source of life. Amen.

**Hymn: Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,

Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us,

Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel’s Strength and Consolation,

Hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear Desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,

Born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever,

Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

Rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit,

Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**THANKSGIVING**

*This act of thanksgiving may be used when the distribution of the Christingles (or candles) is to take place.*

*The congregation Stands*

L: Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him all things come to be, not one thing has its being except through him. Jesus, light of the world,
**All: Thank you that you share our humanity**:

L: O Lord Christ, light of life you shine in the dark places, and your light dispels the darkness that threatens to overpower. Jesus, light of the world, **All:** **Thank you that you share our humanity**:

L: We thank You for the provisions of life... for the people we share with...for the opportunities You have given to us. We thank You for the acceptance and forgiveness You have lavished upon us and choosing to come into the world to dwell among us. Jesus, light of the world,
**All:** **Thank you that you share our humanity**:**.**

L: He came to his own, and they did not accept him. But to all who accept him he gives power to become children of God. Jesus, light of the world **All:** **Thank you that you share our humanity**:

L: The Word was made flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, light of the world, **All:** **Glory to you O Christ, Emmanuel, Messiah, Saviour**. **Thank you that you share our humanity**:

**Hymn: All for Jesus**

Jesus come today, for a poor, poor man like me.

Salvation come my way, my soul set free.

Jesus come for all, and we must hear His call.

Open up your heart today, and let it be.

*Nuh matter if you t’ief, or if you dread,*

*Of if yuh have a crown pan yuh head.*

*Nuh matter if you have no heart at all,*

*Jesus bring love for one and all.*

*Sing it children.*

*I for Jesus, you for Jesus, All for Jesus, fall for Jesus,*

*Come to Jesus. Jesus come for one, he come for all.*

Jesus come for I, see manger where He lie.

See cross where He must die, for a wretch like me.

For God so loved the world,

Man, woman, boy and girl.

He gave His Son for you, His Son for me.

*Nuh matter if you t’ief, or if you dread,*

*Of if yuh have a crown pan yuh head.*

*Nuh matter if you have no heart at all,*

*Jesus bring love for one and all.*

*Sing it children.*

*I for Jesus, you for Jesus, All for Jesus, fall for Jesus,*

*Come to Jesus. Jesus come for one, he come for all.*

Jesus Christ today, the same as yesterday.

The one, the only way, the King for me

Let it come to pass, mankind find love at last.

Just as it was time past, so let it be.

*Nuh matter if you t’ief, or if you dread,*

*Of if yuh have a crown pan yuh head.*

*Nuh matter if you have no heart at all,*

*Jesus bring love for one and all.*

*Sing it children.*

*I for Jesus, you for Jesus, All for Jesus, fall for Jesus,*

*Come to Jesus. Jesus come for one, he come for all.*

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*At the beginning or end of each reading the reader may say*

Reader: God’s word is a lantern to our feet:
**All: And a light to our path.**

**1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

**Song: Cum Dung Jesus**

Christ Jesus Lord from heaven above

*Cum dung to all a we*

We be not worthy of your grace

*Cum dung to all a we*

But help us Lord to see your face

*Cum dung to all a we*

***Chorus***

*Cum dung, Jesus cum dung, cum dung*

*Cum dung to all a we*

*O Lord Jesus, cum dung to all a we*

*O Lord Jesus, cum dung to all a we*

You died on Calvary for our sake

*Cum dung to all a we*

Amendments for our sins you make

*Cum dung to all a we*

Shine down on us your radiant light

*Cum dung to all a we*

Enlighten our sins’ darkest night

*Cum dung to all a we*

O rid us of all care and woe

*Cum dung to all a we*

And put in place your heavenly glow

*Cum dung to all a we*

Come in all power and majesty

*Cum dung to all a we*

Bring us salvation, make us free

*Cum dung to all a we*

Cum dung, Lord and go no ore

*Cum dung to all a we*

Cum dung and stay upon the shore

*Cum dung to all a we*

Yes, cum dung, Lord, please go no more

*Cum dung to all a we*

O Cum dung Lord, forevermore

*Cum dung to all a we*

**Psalm 139.1-2, 7-12**

*At the beginning or end of each reading the reader may say*

Reader: God’s word is a lantern to our feet:
**All: And a light to our path.**

**2nd Reading Philippians 1:3-11**

**Song, Hymn or Carol Sing de chorus, clap your hand**

Sing de chorus, clap your hand

Beat de Congo, play de pan

Spread de news to all the land

That Jesus is born

Jesus de Saviour is born

Do you know de story

How de King of glory

Came to earth a Baby born in a manger

But de worl’ then did not know

That ’twas God on earth below

And treat the Son of God on earth like a stranger.

O great God above us

Truly, you do love us

Your cords of love around us no one can sever

May we always do your loving heart

Sing your praise and glorify you forever.

Do you know de story

How de King of Glory

Came to earth a Baby born in a manger

But de worl’ then did not know

That ’twas God on earth below

And treat the Son of God on earth like a stranger.

*At the beginning or end of each reading the reader may say*

Reader: God’s word is a lantern to our feet:
**All: And a light to our path.**

**3rd Reading: Luke 3:1-6**

SERMON or CHARGE or ADDRESS

 **Hymn/Song: Father, I place into your hands**

*During the singing of the hymn the Christingle gifts and offerings of money may be collected and presented by the children at the altar, in aid of children a Children’s Home or other charity.*

Father, I place into your hands

The things I cannot do,

Father, I place into your hands

The things that I've been through.

Father, I place into your hands

The way that I should go,

For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands

My friends and family.

Father, I place into your hands

The things that trouble me.

Father, I place into your hands

The person I would be,

For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,

We love to hear your voice.

Father, we love to sing your praise

And in your name rejoice.

Father, we love to walk with you

And in your presence rest,

For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you

And do the things you do.

Father, I want to speak the words

That you are speaking too.

Father, I want to love the ones

That you will draw to you,

For I know that I am one with you.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe! From your hands we receive these gifts of your creation. Bless us who bless your holy name, and grant us strength enough to continue in your service.

***All: Amen***

**THE PRAYERS** *Prayers are said for the Church, the world, and for those in special need. The prayers may take any suitable form, and may include the response.*

Leader: Lord of the Church, hear your children’s prayer….

**All: And make us one in heart and mind to serve you.**

*If it has not been said earlier in the service, THE LORD'S PRAYER may follow here.*

***THE LIGHTING AND PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISTINGLES OR OF CANDLES***

**NOTES:**

1. *Light the first Christingle from the Advent Wreath. (Where possible, play this song titled “Light a Candle” by Avalon -* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K2ocj4BvUQ*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K2ocj4BvUQ)*)*
	* + *You may also want to include liturgical dance here*
2. *The Christingles or candles) are lit and are presented to members of the congregation.*
3. *During the distribution of the Christingles or candles) A SONG, CAROL, or HYMN may be sung*
4. *We sing Together: “There is a Candle during the lighting of the Christingle candles*

**Hymn/Song: There is a candle**

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a spirit who brings the fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now our sister, she's been robbed and lied to
And still holds a candle without a flame

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world

We are a family whose hearts are blazing
We raise our candles and light up the sky
Pray to our Father in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest hours

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world

Priest: Let us pray: Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: give us Jesus, the light, to shine in our world that all may believe in you and bear witness to him in our world.

**THE CHARGE:**

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, upon whom your Spirit shines give light to the world; that the whole earth lives to praise your Name. Alleluia, thanks be to God.**

**THE BLESSING:**

L: By the shedding of Christ's blood we are redeemed:
**All: Praise to Christ our Saviour!**

L: In Christ's death is our life:
**All: Praise to Christ our Saviour!**

Priest: Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

L: God shines in your hearts:
**All: Praise to Christ our HOPE!** L: Christ is the light of the world!
**All: Praise to Christ our PEACE!** L: Go, in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others:
**All: Praise to Christ our KING!**

**Closing Hymn: These are the days of Elijah**

***Chorus:***

***Go tell it on the mountain***

***Over the hills and everywhere***

***Go tell it on the mountain***

***That Jesus Christ is born***

While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light

***Chorus***

The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus

That hailed our saviour’s birth

***Chorus***

Down the lonely manger

The humble Christ was born

And God sent salvation

That blessed Christmas morn

***Chorus***