



Welcome to our
Christingle Service and to
St Matthew's Church

Welcome to St Matthew's.

During the service, the Christingle candles will be lit for you.

To ensure everyone's safety, please hold the Christingle away from all clothes and hair. If you need to secure your hair, we have plenty of ties for this. Adults are asked to ensure their children behave in a safe manner with the candles and if in doubt, please hold the Christingle for them.

In the event of an incident, there are plenty of church members around who are able to assist.

Our collection is taken today for the work of The Children's Society.

Please give generously.

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known at the end of the service to one of the wardens or a member of the clergy.

We do have a hearing loop – please switch your hearing aids to the 'T' position if you need this help.

Toilets are available, and the warden will happily direct you should you need it.

Fire exits are clearly marked and, in the event of any incident, you will be calmly directed to the correct exit.

Please turn your mobile phone off – and if you can't do that, please ensure that the sound is off.

Introduction to Christingle and The Children's Society

Christingle is a candle-lit, festive celebration that is perfect for bringing families and communities together. It was brought to the Church of England by The Children's Society in the 1960s.

The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during it. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets, and a candle. They have been part of The Children's Society's history for over 50 years and have helped raise millions of pounds for children and young people.

Greeting

Christ has brought us out of darkness.

To live in his wonderful light.

Christ has brought us from death to life

To live in his glorious hope.

Song

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Out in the darkest night,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Out in the darkest night,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Out in the darkest night,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hymns and Devotions for Daily Worship (African American Edition) #11

Welcome to our Christingle service, in which we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, and the new life and hope he brings – and raise money and awareness to support of the work of The Children's Society, who help children and young people across this country hold onto light and hope themselves. Today we have an opportunity during our Christingle service to celebrate Jesus, the Light, coming into a world of darkness, and share that light and hope with others.

Lighting of a candle

Jesus, Light of the World,
Shine in this place.

Jesus, Hope of the World,
Live in our hearts.

Jesus, Light of the World,
Shine in our lives.

Jesus, Hope of the World,
Bring hope to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Loving God,
we are sorry for the things we say
and do which make you sad,
and for not thinking of others
before ourselves.

We are sorry for times when we
have seen people in need
and ignored them and walked on by.
Please forgive us and help us to love
you and other people,
so we may share your light with
others and bring hope to the world.

Amen.

May God who loved the world so
much
that he sent his Son to be our
Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in
the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Telling the story of Simeon and Anna

Prayers

Lord Jesus,
bringer of hope to the world,
we pray that your hope would live
in us and
that as a community we may find
hope and light.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
bringer of hope to the vulnerable,
we pray for those in need of your
care and compassion.

Bring hope to those who feel they
are living in darkness.

May we bring strength to the weary,
joy to the downhearted

and peace to those who are restless.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
bringer of hope to children and young people,

we pray for young people who are in dark situations.

Shine your light on those who feel afraid
and without hope, that they may have a brighter future.

May we look to your example, not excluding anyone because of age but accepting all those we meet.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
bringer of hope to the helpers,
we pray that you would be with those who support young people.
Strengthen and enlighten teachers and carers in our community:
may they know your blessing upon them.

We pray for the work of The Children's Society,
and all those who support their work with young people.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,

be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,

be the centre, the focus of our lives always

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.

Presentation and lighting of the Christingles

An explanation of the meaning of the Christingle may be given at this point.

Lord Jesus,

Hope for the world,

I hold this Christingle as a sign of your hope.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The candle, planted deep within the world,
as a sign that you made your home among us,
and lived with the poor and neglected.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth,
a sign of your love shown on the cross,
enfolding the whole world with your saving love.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The fruits and sweets, signs of all the good things you have made, given to us that we might share them fairly so everyone can have enough.

May we share your light in the darkness.

Lord Jesus,
Light and hope of the World,
as I hold this Christingle
and think about your great love for me,
help me to take this light out into the world
and to share your love and hope with others,
especially those who need it most.

Amen.

Song

The Christingle begins with an orange, like the world which the Lord God made.
For creation is full of his glory; all around we see his love displayed.

*Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ.
Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.*

Every year we give thanks for the seasons,
and the fruits of the earth to share.
The Christingle is here to remind us that the love of God is everywhere.
God of love, we give thanks now for Jesus;
we remember his birth again.
But the red ribbon round the Christingle
tells the story of his cross and pain.

To complete the Christingle:
a candle, telling us of the world's true light.
For the darkness shall not overcome it,
Jesus shines on in the darkest night.

Mark Earey (1998, 2003)

The Children's Society

Across the country, young people are suffering unseen and unheard – struggling with their mental health, living in poverty, and in danger from exploitation and abuse. They can't wait any longer for support.

The Children's Society believes that a brighter future is possible. That's why they've been working for more than 140 years to protect every childhood. They make sure young people can access vital support, before they reach breaking point. And they campaign for a world where every child can grow up safe, happy, and hopeful.

Thank you for what you are able to give.

Blessing

Let us go in Peace
We go into the world
to walk in God's Light,
to live in God's hope
to rejoice in God's love,
and to reflect God's glory.

Amen.

Donations to The Children's Society:



Donations towards St Matthew's new roof:

