

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



Christingle

All Age Worship and Communion

**Sunday 6th December 2020
10.30am**

Welcome to St John's

Whether you are in church, joining from home on Zoom, watching live on Facebook or catching up via the recording on Facebook, you are very welcome and it's good that you're here with us.

As Sheffield is now subject to Tier 3 Covid restrictions, please take extra care of yourselves and each other, ensuring that you **wear a face covering** that covers nose and mouth (unless you are exempt), **sanitise your hands** on entering and leaving church and **keep a safe distance** (2 metres / 6 feet) between you and others. Specific to Tier 3 is the fact that **we must not gather in groups** before or after the service either inside the building or outside.

Signs in church mark out the one way system. At the end of the service, please endeavour to leave row by row starting at the back and using the north door to exit the building.

We Gather

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

Christ has brought us out of darkness
To live in his wonderful light.

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering
others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light

Welcome

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

Lighting of a candle

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

Opening Responses

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

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

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

Jesus, Light of the World,
Shine in all the earth.

Amen.

Confession – we say sorry to God

Advent is a time of getting ready, getting ready in our own lives, ready to welcome Jesus once again. We come to God asking for his forgiveness for all that we have done wrong and remembering all the wrong in the world.

Thumb

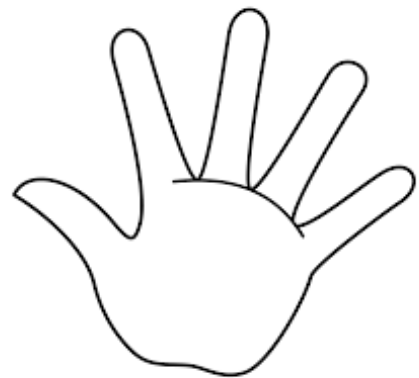
Lord, forgive us for forgetting that you are God
And for failing to follow your ways
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

First Finger

Lord, forgive us for pointing at faults in others
And forgetting our own mistakes.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Longest finger

Lord, forgive us for going our own way



And ignoring your direction in our lives
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Ring finger
Lord, forgive us for hurting those closest to us
And for not building relationships with others.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Smallest finger
Lord, forgive us for overlooking those who
Seem to be of no account and forgetting how special
Each one of us is to you.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution - God forgives us

May God our Father forgive us our sins
And bring us to the fellowship of his table
With his saints for ever.
Amen.

The Collect - a special prayer for Advent

Faithful God, you keep your promises
And come to meet us again in Jesus,
Help us to prepare our lives
And make space for you once again
Thorough Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

We listen

Reading

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Like a candle flame
Flickering small in our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia
God is with us, alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia
Come to save us
Alleluia!

Stars and angels sing
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?
God is with us, alleluia

Yet his light shall shine
From our lives, Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame
Of his holy fire
God is with us, alleluia

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Introduction to the work of The Childrens' Society

Lord God,
we thank you for The Children's Society as it reaches out
to young people who feel scared, unloved and alone.
Guide and strengthen its work alongside children and young people
who are in danger and feel unsafe,
who have no one to help them and nowhere to turn.
Grant us wisdom to listen to the voices of the young
and to recognise their gifts and insights.
Help us to work with them to create a fair and just society
where all may know the fullness of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Talk

Lighting of the Christingles

The choir sing Away in a Manger as the light is passed around the church

Lord Jesus,
Light 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 with others,
especially those who need it most. **Amen.**

We Respond

Affirmation of Faith – what we believe

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus,
bringer of light to this world,
we pray that your light would shine in us and
that as a community we may reflect your light.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
bringer of light to the vulnerable,
we pray for those in need of your care and compassion.
Shine your light on 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 light to children and young people,
we pray for young people who are in dark situations.
Shine your light on those who feel hopeless, 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 light to the helpers,
we pray that you would be with those who support young people.
Shine your light on 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 vulnerable young people.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Anthem

The Lord is my Light (Taize)

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.*

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Answer: **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.*

Hosanna in the highest.]

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question: Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer: **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'
So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question: How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer: **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with [N and] all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,

in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

**We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

Distribution of Communion

Please follow the directions of the Stewards as you make your way to receive communion. Hand sanitiser stations are available. Communion is given in one kind only and in silence. If you would like to receive a blessing please bow your head. The blessing will be given in silence. Please respect your distance at all times.

We Go Out

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.

Blessing

We go in peace:
To share the peace of God with all we meet.

We go in love:
To share God's gift of love with the world.

We go in the light of Christ:
To shine as lights in the world.
To the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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