

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH
CANTERBURY



Christingle Service

**THE FEAST OF
THE EPIPHANY**



This service is being live-streamed on YouTube for those who are unable to attend in person. By attending this service, you may appear online.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in our Church. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to 'T'



Large print orders of service are available from the sidespersons. Please ask.



Toilet facilities are available in the Church Hall. Please ask a Sidesperson for directions.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We all STAND when the vestry bell is rung and the choir sing

INTROIT

People look East

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Music: Besancon carol

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
he for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

We remain STANDING and sing together

CAROL

O come, all ye faithful
O COME, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3 Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child
Bring our hearts' oblations:

4 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
In the highest:"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Words: Latin, 18th Century, *Tr* FREDERICK OAKLEY (1802–80)
Music: '*Adeste Fideles*', J. F. WADE (1711–86)
arranged by DAVID WILLCOCKS (1919–2015)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Dear brothers and sisters, all over the world children and their families have been celebrating Christmas in many different ways, some with joy and some with sadness; some in refugee camps and in the midst of war and others in lovely, secure places of warmth and comfort and love. Even in the darkest night, Christmas has at its heart the idea that the light of God comes into the world. At Epiphany we celebrate the light that led the wise men to worship the Christ-child.

The light of Christ came into the world to bring joy and relief to those in darkness. That light is celebrated at our Christingle Services, and we light our Christingles to say to ourselves that we will also be light in the world. We will be the presence of Christ in the world. Christingle celebrations are held by many churches each year, and they raise about 1.2 million pounds a year for the work of The Children's Society. The work of the Children's Society supports some of the most vulnerable children and young people. Many of them are in very dark places, physically, spiritually, economically, and lacking love and care. The Children's Society comes to them with the light of warmth and hope. By taking part in this Service and by helping

The Children's Society we too are helping those children who live with darkness.

As we give thanks for Christ the light of the world and remember the work of the Children's Society, let us pray:

Loving Lord,
we thank you for the Children's Society as it reaches out to young people experiencing pain and injustice.
Guide and strengthen its work alongside children and young people who are homeless and on the streets, in prison or facing problems in the community.
Grant us the wisdom to listen to the voices of the young and to recognize 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.

All **Amen.**

We SIT and the choir sing

PSALM 72

vv. 10–15 & Gloria

- 10 The kings of Tarsis and of the isles shall give presents :
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him :
all nations shall do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth :
the needy also and him that hath no helper.
- 13 He shall be favourable to the simple and needy :
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.
- 14 He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong :
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 He shall live and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia :
prayer shall be made ever unto him and daily shall he be praised.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

READING

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Instead of bronze I will bring gold,
instead of iron I will bring silver;
instead of wood, bronze,
instead of stones, iron.
I will appoint Peace as your overseer
and Righteousness as your taskmaster.
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.
The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down,
or your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Thanks be to God.

We all STAND to sing

CAROL

The First Nowell

THE first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

- 2 They lookéd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
- 3 And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star where-ever it went:
- 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:
- 5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind and bought:

Words and Music: TRADITIONAL

We SIT for the reading

READING

A Reading from St Matthew's Gospel

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God.

THE CHRISTINGLE STORY

THANKSGIVING & LIGHTING OF CHRISTINGLES

We STAND

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise
for Jesus Christ our Lord:
for he was the Word before all creation.
Through him all things come to be;
not one thing has its being but through him.

All Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

His life is the light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness cannot overpower.

All Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was the true light coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.

All Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

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.

All Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
as of the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

All Jesus, light of the world,
we worship and adore you.

To God our creator,
born as one of us,
be all praise and glory.

All With all the company of heaven, we worship, saying:
**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come;
to him be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.**

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Verse 1 sung by children only

AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Everyone joins in

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: ANONYMOUS, Philadelphia 1883
Music: W. J. KIRKPATRICK (1838–1921)

At the end of the carol we SIT or KNEEL to pray

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere
the spirit of adoration ...

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
[at the beginning of this year] ...

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,
and all who suffer ...

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a part ...

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph
and all the faithful departed.
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

We STAND to sing the carol

CAROL

We three kings

WE three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:
*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign:

3 Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a deity night;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God most high:

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb:

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

Words and Music: EDWARD JOHN HOPKINS (1818–1901)

At the end of the carol, we remain STANDING

READING

A Reading from the First Letter of St John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

BLESSING

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

All **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CAROL

Christ be our Light

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.

2 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.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

5 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!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Words and Music: BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

We remain STANDING as the choir and clergy process out.

