

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN: 'We Are Marching in the Light of God' (692)

Christingles

Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. Our first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this.

Over the years the symbolism of the Christingle grew into what's known as a Christingle today. Here's what the different parts of the Christingle represent to Christians:

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us. (Sometimes in Moravian Churches a white ribbon is used to represent the purity of Jesus.)
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West - they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.

Christingle Service

8th February 2026

GATHERING HYMN: 'Restore O Lord' (566)

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60: 1-3

Jerusalem, stand up! Shine! Your new day is dawning.
The glory of the Lord shines brightly on you.
The earth and its people are covered with darkness,
but the glory of the Lord is shining upon you.
Nations and kings will come to the light of your dawning day.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



SECOND READING

In the beginning was the one
who is called the Word.

The Word was with God
and was truly God.
From the very beginning
the Word was with God.

And with this Word,
God created all things.

Nothing was made
without the Word.

Everything that was created
received its life from him,
and his life gave light
to everyone.

The light keeps shining
in the dark,
and darkness has never
put it out.

For the word of the Lord



Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN— 'Like a Candle Flame' (139)

We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a clay pot. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5: 14-16

John 1: 1-5

OFFERTORY HYMN: 'Sing Christingle'

The Christingle begins with an orange,
Telling us of the world God made.
By the fruits of the earth in their seasons,
we can see the love of God displayed.

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

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.

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

To complete the Christingle: a candle,
shining out in the darkest night.
Jesus promised to lead us and guide us;
come and celebrate the world's true light

Sing Christingle! Sing Christingle!...

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'The Lord is My Light' - (786)

'I Watch the Light' (328)

'Colours of Day' (97)

