



St John the Evangelist, Kingston  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

# **Christingle Communion**

**in support of  
The Children's Society**

Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> Kingston Scouts, Cubs and Beavers  
and anyone who is new to St John's.

## Hymn

- 1. Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new,  
Bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.**

**Chorus: Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?**

- 2. God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

3. **Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid,  
Till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected:**
  
4. **Journey ends: where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry.**

**Chorus:      Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
                    Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
                    Jesus comes, Jesus comes,  
                    We will make him welcome.**

*Words: Fred Pratt Green    Tune: Personent Hodie*

## The Greeting

Minister      In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of  
                    the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
                    The Lord be with you  
**All              And also with you.**

## Introduction

Minister      Today we begin the season of Advent, a time of  
                    promise and a time of preparing.  
                    Let us light the Advent candle and pray that God  
                    will be with us here.

Voice            God who speaks.  
**All                Help us to listen.**  
Voice            God who listens.  
**All                Help us to pray.**  
Voice            God who sees.  
**All                Help us to act.**  
Voice            God who acts.  
**All                Help us to share. Amen.**

Voice            We are waiting, for you, O Lord. We are waiting  
for you.

*The first advent candle is lit.*

Voice            We light this candle and remember God's word  
spoken down the ages, a promise of peace and  
life for everyone.  
**All                Peace and life for everyone.**

Voice            Let us pray:  
O God of hope, send your light to us as we make  
ready to welcome Jesus again. Live in us and  
help us to live in you.  
**All                Amen.**

We say sorry

Minister        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 our world.

*You are invited to hold the appropriate fingers of your left hand as the prayers are prayed.*

*Thumb*

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

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*First finger*

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

**All Christ, have mercy.**

*Longest finger*

Voice Lord, forgive us for going our own way and ignoring your direction for our lives.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*Ring finger*

Voice Lord, forgive us for hurting those closest to us and for not building friendships with others.  
Christ, have mercy,

**All Christ, have mercy.**

*Smallest finger*

Voice 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.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Minister        May God our Father forgive you your sins and  
bring you to the fellowship of his table with his  
saints forever.

**All                Amen**

Collect:        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, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All                Amen**

We listen:    The Reading – Mark 13:33-end

Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming - it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!"

Thanks be to God

Talk

Christingle Making:

*We each make a Christingle for someone else and place it on the table at the back of church.*

## Hymn

- 1. The Christingle begins with an orange,  
telling us of the world 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.***

- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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!**

## Prayers

Loving God, we remember all the children of the world. You know and care for each one, those who are happy and those who are sad. We pray especially for children who are in need today. Children who are hungry and homeless, frightened or alone. The ribbon of the Christingle is a sign of your great love wrapped around the world. Wrap them in your love today and every day.

Come, Lord Jesus,

**All hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for The Children's Society. Bless the work they do and may every child they help get the love and support they need. Help us to care, give and speak up on behalf of others too.

Come, Lord Jesus,

**All hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for ourselves as we get ready for Christmas. Help us to follow you more closely each day and to find quiet time with you. Help us to remember that every person of every age is special and to share your love with those we meet.

Come, Lord Jesus,

**All hear our prayer.**

We take a moment of quiet for our own prayers...

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

## The Peace

Minister      May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All              And also with you.**

Minister      Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Most people here greet each other with a handshake.*

Offertory Hymn – *the bread and wine are brought to the altar and the altar prepared for communion. A collection is taken for the Children’s Society and the Children’s Society Boxes are placed on the altar.*

- 1.      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.**

*Bernadette Farrell*

## The Blessing of the Collection and Children's Society Boxes

Loving God, you made everything that is, so we are giving back to you some of what is already yours. Bless what we have offered, and the work it will support. Bless all the staff and volunteers of The Children's Society and the children and young people whom they will help. May our offerings help the light of your love burn even more brightly in the year ahead.

**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord is here

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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 happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

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.

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. 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 Mary, John the Evangelist and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and forever.

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel. There may be a period of silence.*

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Minister We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All                    Though we are many, we are one body,  
                              Because we all share in one bread.**

## The Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## The Communion

*Everyone is invited to gather around the altar to receive communion or a blessing. The sidespeople will direct you.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

**Lord, we have broken your bread  
and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*during which everyone gathers in a large circle and the Christingles are given out and lit.*

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood may I enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Graham Kendrick*

## Christingle prayers

Voice: Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
we hold these Christingles as a sign of your love.

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

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth, is a sign  
of your love, enfolding the whole world.

The fruits and sweets, are a sign of all the good  
things of creation which you give to us. Help us  
to share them fairly so everyone can delight in  
the life you have given them and the world you  
have made.

**All**            **Lord Jesus,**  
                 **Light of the world,**  
                 **as I hold this Christingle**  
                 **and think about your great love for me,**  
                 **help me to become a light**  
                 **bearing that love to others.**  
                 **Amen.**

## We go out - The Blessing

Minister      This advent let us make our hearts ready for  
Jesus to be with us.  
And the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be with us, this day and always.

**All              Amen**

Minister      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All              In the name of Christ. Amen.**

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STAY FOR REFRESHMENTS  
AFTER THE SERVICE

*If you have been touched by the Christingle service and would like to support the work of The Children's Society throughout the year, please consider taking a house box. It is a small collection box in which you can put the odd coins (or notes!) at any time. The box is then collected annually for emptying by your St John's representative. If you would be interested, then please see Emma after the service.*

*Thank you to those who have boxes. If you have brought yours with you, you are invited to empty and count it after the service and take it home again for another year.*

*For more information about the Children's Society and stories of the children they have helped go to [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk).*

