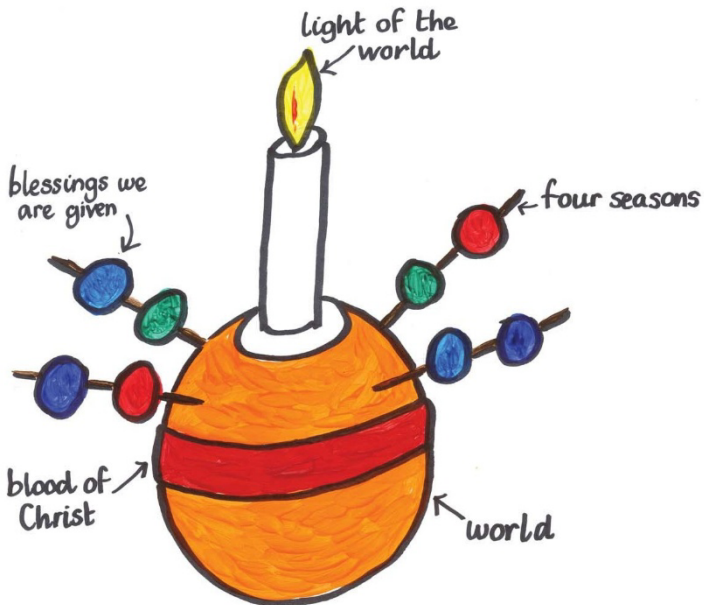




CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTINGLE AND

CRIB SERVICE



24TH DECEMBER 2025

Welcome to Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood for our Crib and Christingle service.

Each year the crib is placed and decorated in Holy Trinity. This year it was built and decorated by our Toddler Thursday group, at the start of this service we will place Mary and Joseph in the stable as they arrive in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve in search for a bed. The shepherds arrive shortly after Jesus' birth, but the Magi (or wise men) do not visit until much later. You may be able to spot them in the church as they travel with their gifts. They will finish their long journey at Epiphany, during our family service on **January 4th**.

As you leave today, perhaps take a moment in front of the stable, to wonder and to say a prayer for peace in the world this Christmas time.

This service also supports the work of the **Children's Society**. Their annual Christingle appeal raises vital funds for the children facing life's harshest challenges.

Children who, this winter, find themselves sleeping rough in parks and shop doorways. The funds raised from Christingle help us to shine light into the darkness of their lives.

The Christingle began in the Moravian church in 1747. It is made up of a lighted candle symbolising Christ, the Light of the World, mounted on an orange (representing the world) with a red ribbon around (symbolising the blood of Christ). Four cocktail sticks with fruit symbolise the four seasons and the fruits of the earth.

Our worship celebrates Christ's love for all people.

We find rest in God's presence.

The Holy Spirit empowers our lives.

We enjoy building a loving community.

*We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**. We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.*

Photographs may be taken during the service, and these could be used online, on social media and in print to record and publicise the work of the church. Individuals might be recognisable in these images. Please let us know if you don't want your image or your child's image used in this way.

A toilet with disabled and baby changing facilities is available in front of you in the left-hand corner of the church.

Opening Carol

Please stand

During this carol, Mary and Joseph are placed in the stable.

(NEH 34)

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

And, through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Welcome and Introduction

The president says

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The president welcomes and introduces the service

We have come together on Christmas Eve to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

So, let us pray:

Responses

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

All: Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All: The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

All: Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

The Christingle Prayer

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Carol

Please stand
(CAHON 443)

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord,
Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord,
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord,
the people came to Bethlehem to see her son.

What did she name him, yes, Lord?
What did she name him, yes, my Lord?
What did she name him, yes, Lord?
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

Mary named him Jesus, yes, Lord.
Mary named him Jesus, yes, my Lord.
Mary named him Jesus, yes, Lord.
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

Where was he born, yes, Lord?
Where was he born, yes, my Lord?
Where was he born, yes, Lord?
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

Born in a stable, yes, Lord.
Born in a stable, yes, my Lord.
Born in a stable, yes, Lord.
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

Where did she lay him, yes, Lord?
Where did she lay him, yes, my Lord?
Where did she lay him, yes, Lord?
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

Laid him in a manger, yes, Lord.
Laid him in a manger, yes, my Lord.
Laid him in a manger, yes, Lord.
the people came to Bethlehem to
see her son.

West Indian Spiritual, altered

The Christmas Story

Please sit

Luke 2

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. There were shepherds camping in the neighbourhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket

and lying in a manger.” At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!

The Christingle Talk

Please sit

The Blessing and Presentation of the Christingles

The Christingles are distributed, lit and then blessed

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the World, all times and seasons belong to you. You fill this world with your gifts and give us new life through the shedding of your blood. May we who walk in your light, shed your light upon others. Bless these Christingles that they may be to us signs of your light and life in the world in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Carol

Please stand
(CHON 776)

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.

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.

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.

Anon (American, 19th century)

We blow out our Christingles

Now, as we blow out the candles,
Soon, as we say goodbye to each other,
Always and everywhere, as we travel homewards,

All: Stay with us God.
All: Stay with us God.
All: Stay with us God.

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel

Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are starving.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who suffered for us on the cross, give strength to all who suffer today.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

Christ, who died to save us, give peace to all who seek pardon.
In your mercy **All: hear our prayer.**

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.

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.**

Carol

(REH 48)

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon Virgin Mother and child;
holy infant so tender and mild
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glory streams from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, 'Alleluya,
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born!'

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

German, Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
tr John Freeman Young (1820-85)

Blessing the Crib

All: Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib, that all who worship
his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your son, Jesus Christ, was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation. Bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate
that holy birth. May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the
fullness of life he came to bring, who live and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Carol

(MP 589)

See Him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
the Prince of glory is His name.
***O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men -
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.***

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Refrain

Angels, sing the song you began,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.

Refrain

Mine are riches, from Your poverty,
from Your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by Your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Refrain

Michael Perry (1942-96)

The Blessing and Dismissal

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon us this Christmas and remain with us always.

All: Amen

Go in the peace of Christ, to bring light to all whom you meet.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Children's Society Christingle Collection

As you leave, please contribute to the collection for the Children's Society.

You can also donate to the Children's Society online, using this QR code: scan it and click the 'Make a donation' button. Your donation will go direct to the Children's Society and will be attributed to our total from Holy Trinity, Prestwood and St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden.



With grateful thanks to



for supplying the Christmas Tree in church, our straw bales and our Christingle oranges.

With Christmas wishes to you from
the Reverend Nigel Spoor, the Reverend Kayleigh Lucas, the
Churchwardens and all at Holy Trinity Prestwood.

***Our Christmas Day service of Holy Communion
for all the family is at 9.30am.***

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