



The Parish Church of All Saints, Leamington Spa

The Christingle Service



2021 edition

Welcome

Leader Christ has brought us out of darkness
All to live in his marvellous light.

Let us pray.

Silence

God our Father,
give us, we pray, the light of Christ,
that we may shine with his love,
be ready to serve others,
and eager to follow in his steps,
who is the true light and source of life.
Amen.

All gather around the Crib and Candle during the hymn:

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep
and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears
of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

The Paschal Candle is lit, to represent Jesus, Light of the World.

When we do things wrong
and feel guilty and ashamed,
**Jesus, Light of the World,
help us walk in your light.**

When others do things wrong
and we feel hurt or unwanted,
**Jesus, Light of the World,
help us walk in your light.**

When we want to help others
but don't know how,
Jesus, Light of the World,
help us walk in your light.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
By the light of Christ, your living Word,
cast out the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

**O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing
to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep,
the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.**

Reading: The Birth of Jesus

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrolment, while Quirinius was Governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be enrolled. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be enrolled with Mary, to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
(Luke 2.1-7)

Thanks be to God.

Silence

The figure of Jesus is placed into the crib

How silently, how silently
The wond'rous gift is given.
So God imparts
to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls
will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Blessing of the Crib:

Priest As we remember the holy and wonderful birth of Jesus,
we pray that this crib
and all who pray before it may be blessed;
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The children sing the first verse of the next carol:

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.

All join in, singing softly:

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 side until 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.

Reading: The Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours."

When the angel had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

(Luke 2.8-16)

Thanks be to God.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin,
and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
Their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us,
abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel!**

The Christingle Story

Christingles are collected during the hymn
All form a large circle and stand still

The Christingles are lit, taking the light from the Paschal Candle
All adults are asked to ensure the Christingles are held safely

When all the candles are lit, the lights are turned down

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!
Son of God, Love's pure light;
Radiant beams thy holy face
With the dawn
of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Let us pray.

Father of lights,
from whom comes every good and perfect gift:
keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world,
that all may believe in you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Candles are extinguished

All join together to say the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Priest Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.