



## Advent 4 - 19th December 2021

### Gathering

#### Call to worship

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has never put it out.**

#### Opening prayer

Jesus, light of the world,  
come and shine among us this Christmas  
time, and make us lights, to shine in the  
dark places of your world.  
**Amen.**

#### Advent Candle Lighting

We light this candle for all God-bearers,  
saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting  
the pain and joy of an unknown future.

**God, as we wait for your promise,  
give light, give hope.**

*The fourth candle is lit*

A candle burns, the sign of your love.  
God of Mary, come to us again this  
Advent. May the light of your love be  
born anew in us. **Amen.**

### Hymn

Here we are giving  
Out of our plenty,  
Fruit of thanksgiving,  
Tribute of love.  
Hearts overflowing  
Cannot stand empty  
Constantly growing  
With grace from above.

Gathered as one, and  
Thankfully bringing  
All that we are and  
All that we do.  
Serving and caring,  
Praying and singing,  
Building and sharing,  
Offered to you.

Love beyond measure,  
Total compassion,  
We are your treasure,  
Wonderfully giv'n.  
Made in your likeness,  
Imaged and fashioned,  
Life that is priceless,  
Valued by heaven.

*Ally Barrett*

## The Story of the Christingle

### *The world that God loved so much*

*Luke 2.7*

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.

*John 3.16*

For God so loved the world that he gave  
his only Son, so that everyone who  
believes in him may not perish but may  
have eternal life.

*Isaiah 1.18*

Come now, let us argue it out, says the  
Lord: though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow; though they are  
red like crimson, they shall become like  
wool.

*Matthew 1.21*

She will bear a son, and you are to name  
him Jesus, for he will save his people from  
their sins.

*John 19.34*

One of the soldiers, however, pierced his  
side with a spear, and immediately blood  
and water flowed out.

*Reflection*

Carol

*Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir*

Long ago, in Bethlehem  
on a dark, winter's night,  
Cradled in his mother's arms,  
lit by dull stable light,  
Was the Boy who was born  
of the first Christmas morn  
And his name was Jesus.

Long ago, in Bethlehem  
shepherds sat in their fields,  
When a message from the Lord  
unto them was revealed  
Of a Boy who was born  
of the first Christmas morn  
And his name was Jesus.

Long ago, in Bethlehem  
came three kings from afar,  
They had travelled from the east  
guided by a bright star,  
To see the Boy who was born  
of the first Christmas morn  
And his name was Jesus.

Long ago, in Bethlehem  
angels sang from above,  
Of a child who has come  
to save mankind with love,  
Twas the Boy who was born  
of the first Christmas morn  
And his name was Jesus.  
And his name was Jesus.

*Paul Richards*

### *The four corners of the world*

*Matthew 2.1-5, 9-11*

After Jesus was born some wise men from  
eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,  
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"  
King Herod was jealous when he heard  
this, and he asked some priests and teachers,  
"Where is the Messiah supposed to be  
born?" "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said.

After this, the wise men went their way.  
And the star they had seen in the east  
guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead  
of them and stopped over the place  
where the child was. When they saw the  
star, they were filled with joy! They  
entered the house and saw the child with  
his mother, Mary, and they bowed down  
and worshipped him. Then they opened  
their treasure chests and gave him gifts of  
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Ecclesiastes 3.1, 4-5, 7b-8a, 9-11a*

For everything there is a season, a time  
for every activity under heaven. A time to  
cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve  
and a time to dance. A time to scatter  
stones and a time to gather stones. A  
time to embrace and a time to turn away.  
A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A  
time to love and a time to hate. What do  
people really get for all their hard work? I  
have seen the burden God has placed on  
us all. Yet God has made everything  
beautiful for its own time.

*Matthew 6.25-26.*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about  
your life, what you will eat or drink; or  
about your body, what you will wear. Is  
not life more than food, and the body  
more than clothes? Look at the birds of  
the air; they do not sow or reap or store  
away in barns, and yet your heavenly  
Father feeds them. Are you not much  
more valuable than they?

*Reflection*

Silent Night

*Played by Aylesford Hand Bell Ringers*

Hope of Heaven

*Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir*

Light up a candle and hold out the globe,  
Here in the darkness the light of the world.  
The red in the ribbon for love that He  
showed,  
And fruits as a sign of His goodness.

A life freely given, a love we can know,  
The light of the world ever with us.

*Hope of heaven,  
In our darkness,  
You came to Earth  
bringing peace and life.  
Hope of heaven,  
Full of kindness,  
Come shine your light  
in this candle that I hold.*

Light up a candle and hold out the globe,  
Here in the darkness the light of the world.  
*Words and music: Mark and Helen Johnson*

## *The Light of the World*

*Genesis 1.14-15*

And God said, “Let there be lights in the  
dome of the sky to separate the day from  
the night; and let them be for signs and  
for seasons and for days and years, and  
let them be lights in the dome of the sky  
to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

*John 1.1-5*

In the beginning was the Word, and the  
Word was with God, and the Word was  
God. He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into  
being. What has come into being in him  
was life, and the life was the light of all  
people. The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.

*John 8.12.*

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

*Reflection*

## Lighting the Christingles

### Christingle Song

The Christingle is made 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.

*Refrain*

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!

*Refrain*

*Alan J Meats (1995)*

### Prayers

#### *Offertory Prayer*

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer, and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Confession*

*Silence*

**Father God, we are sorry for the things we say and do which make you sad, and for not thinking of others before ourselves.**

**We are sorry for times when we have seen people in need and ignored them and walked on by.**

**Please forgive us and help us to love you and other people, so we may share your light with others and bring hope to the world. Amen.**

*Absolution*

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayers for others*

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*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.**

Good King Wenceslas

*Played by Aylesford Hand Bell Ringers*



Leaving to shine God's light in the world

News and Notices

It's So Exciting!

*Sung by Aylesford Community Youth Choir*

It's so exciting!  
I'm on the edge of my seat.  
Can you believe it's true?  
There's nothing like it,  
It sounds amazing to me,  
Can't wait to see what He's gonna do!

*He's got a plan that's gonna surprise us all,  
He's got a gift to give to the world.  
He's gonna do what's never been done  
before,  
It's gonna be a miracle!*

We've got the schedule,  
So can we stick to it please?  
There isn't time to lose.  
It's something special,  
To be a part of the scene,  
Can't wait to see what He's gonna do!

*He's got a plan that's gonna surprise us all,  
He's got a gift to give to the world.  
He's gonna do what's never been done  
before,  
It's gonna be a miracle!*

Blessing

May starlight guide your steps towards  
this place of wonder. May angels sing  
their news as you travel to the manger.  
May promise fill these days as we watch  
at the edge of birth and may faith tell you,  
God will be with us soon;  
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 peace

**We go into the world  
to walk in God's Light,  
to live in God's hope  
to rejoice in God's love,  
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

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