

*St. Augustine's Christingle Service
24 December 2007*

We welcome you here in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus,
Whose birthday we celebrate tomorrow !

Our theme for today's service is :

God is so good

"God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him may not die but have eternal life."

John chapter 3 verse 16

Please stand to sing the hymn

How great Thou art

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Chorus :

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art !*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Chorus

3. But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in -
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Chorus

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart !
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "my God, how great Thou art !"

Chorus

Please sit.

The Christingle is made up of four parts :

THE ORANGE	<i>which represents</i>	the world which God created;
THE FOUR ARMS	<i>which represent</i>	the four seasons, winter, spring, summer and autumn;
THE RED RIBBON	<i>which represents</i>	the blood of Jesus given for all people;
THE CANDLE	<i>to remind us that</i>	Jesus said, "I am the light of the world".

The first part of the Christingle is :

THE ORANGE.

READING : **God created us to be His servants :**

"And so the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God finished what He had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day He had completed His creation and stopped working."

Genesis Chapter 1 verse 26 to Chapter 2 verse 4.

"I am putting you in charge"

Please stand to sing

**God is so good
God is so good
God is so good
He's so good to us.**

God is so good.

**He made the world,
All that there is;
Made us as well -
He's so good to us.**

Please sit for the play

"I am putting you in charge".

If I put you in charge ... I mean that I'm trusting you to look after it just as I would - and I'm making you responsible for it.

Please remain sitting and sing :

**God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.**

**He trusted us,
Left us to care
For all He made -
He's so good to us.**

The second part of the Christingle is :

THE FOUR ARMS.

How can we support and help the wonders of creation through all the seasons ?

Please remain sitting and sing :

**God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.**

**Short days or long,
Hot days or cold,
All seasons round,
He's so good to us.**

The third part of the Christingle is :

THE RED RIBBON.

Please stand to sing the hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem.

- 1. 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 street shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.**

- 3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous 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.**
- 4. 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
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Please sit.

READING : **The Birth of Jesus :**

“Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, ... with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son.”

Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

Unto us a Child is born

Please remain sitting and sing :

**God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.**

**God loved the world
So that He gave
His only Son -
He's so good to us**

Please stand to sing

Away in a manger.

- 1. 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.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love You, Lord Jesus ! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.**

Please sit.

READING : **The shepherds see the Angels, who sing of God's peace :**

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: He is Christ, the Lord. ”

Luke chapter 2 verses 8-20

**“Glory be to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all on whom His favour rests.”**

Please remain sitting and sing :

**God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.**

**God came to earth,
Born as a Child;
Glory to God !
He's so good to us.**

READING : **The Wise Men visit Jesus :**

“We are enquiring where is the One who has been born King of the Jews ? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

All respond : “He was born in Bethlehem.”

“..... Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-2, 11-12

“..... they bowed down and worshipped Him.”

Please remain sitting and sing :

**God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.**

**What can we give ?
Give Him our love;
Give Him our lives,
He's so good to us.**

Please stand to sing the carol

The First Noel.

- 1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Chorus :

**Noel, noel, noel, noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

- 2. When they looked up they saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

Chorus

- 3. And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Chorus

continued ...

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Chorus :

*Noel, noel, noel, noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three
and reverently, upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Chorus

6. Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who brought forth heaven and earth from nought,
and with His blood mankind has bought.

Chorus

Please sit.

Jesus didn't stay a baby in a manger but when he grew up He travelled about teaching people about God, healing people and showing people how to live a life dedicated to obeying His heavenly Father.

We put this red ribbon around the whole world to represent the blood of Jesus given for all people.

Please remain sitting and sing :

God is so good,	He died for us,	He took our place,
God is so good,	Died on the cross;	He paid our debt;
God is so good,	Gave us His life,	Now we are free !
He's so good to us.	He's so good to us.	He's so good to us.

READING : The events after Jesus's death and resurrection :

"God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who worship Him and do what is right are acceptable to Him, no matter what race they belong to.

You know the message He sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all."

Acts Chapter 10 verses 34-43

The final part of the Christingle is

THE CANDLE.

Message : "I am the light of the world."

Please remain sitting and sing :

God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to us.

He gives us light;
He is our light,
Light of the world -
He's so good to us.

Please stand to sing

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is
come!
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.

Joy to the World

2. Joy to the world; the Saviour
reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace;
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.
And wonders of His love.
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

Please sit.

THE CHRISTINGLE

Explanation ... Instruction ... Construction ... lighting Christingles

Please stand to sing "Happy Birthday" :

Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday, dear Jesus -
Happy Birthday to You ! (twice)

Blessing the Christingles

Please blow out the candles !

Please sit or kneel for the prayers, which we shall end by singing 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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen

Please stand for the Carol

Silent Night.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. 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.</p> | <p>2. Silent night, holy night;
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born;
Christ the Saviour is born.</p> |
| <p>3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.</p> | |

Please remain standing for the Blessing.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas
and a happy New Year !

Those contributing :

Names omitted

Our next Family Service is on March 23rd, Easter Sunday at 10 am;
we would love to see you here then.
Kids' Club restarts on Tuesday March 4th 2008.