

**St. Augustine's Christingle Service 24 December 2005**

Welcome

*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*

*THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IS FULL OF THE GLORY OF GOD. IT BEGAN WITH ANGELS, IT CONTINUED WITH A STAR, BUT, MOST GLORIOUS OF ALL, IT GAVE US JESUS, 'EMMANUEL', WHICH MEANS 'GOD IS WITH US'.*

*LET US CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF GOD IN THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE.*

The CHRISTINGLE is made up of four main parts –

FIRST WE HAVE THE ORANGE WHICH REPRESENTS  
THE WORLD THAT GOD MADE.

LET US THINK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THE WONDERFUL WORLD THAT GOD  
HAS MADE.

*Some of us find the glory of God in :*  
the awesomeness of mountains.  
the splendour of a rainbow.  
the power of a storm.  
the delicacy of a tiny flower.  
the trusting smile of a baby.  
the vast expanse of the night sky.  
the peace and quiet of a church.  
the dawn chorus of the birds.  
the majesty of tall trees.  
the trustfulness of a child.  
the beauty of a sunset.  
the loving touch of a friend.

**Leader :** Let us pray. We thank You, Lord God, for the wonderful world  
You made.

**ALL :** Thank You, Lord, for Your wonderful world.

**Leader :** Forgive us for the ways in which we misuse it.

**ALL :** Forgive us, Lord.

**Leader :** Teach us to use the resources of this world for Your glory.

**ALL :** Teach us, Lord.

**Leader :** Open our eyes that we may see the glories of Your wonderful  
creation.

**ALL :** Open our eyes, Lord.

**Leader :** We give thanks and praise to You, Creator God, for the beauty  
of Your glory.

**ALL :** Thank You, Creator God, for the beauty of Your glory.

SECOND WE HAVE THE ARMS WHICH REPRESENT  
THE FOUR SEASONS AND THEIR FRUITFULNESS.

We can see the glory of God in :

WINTER in the preparation of a field for spring sowing.

SPRING in the blossom with its promise of fruit to come.

SUMMER in the fields of ripening corn.

AUTUMN in the laden nut and fruit trees.

**Leader :** Let us praise God for His glory.

**ALL :** We give thanks and praise to You, provider God, for the  
bounty of Your glory.

*Please join in the second line of each verse:* The Song of Creation

O give thanks to our God who is good:  
**whose love endures for ever.**

You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All mountains and valleys, grasslands and scree, glacier,  
avalanche, mist and snow:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

You kauri and pine, rata and kowhai, mosses and ferns:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab, coral, anemone, pipi  
and shrimp:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs, kiwi and sparrow and tui  
and hawk:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

You Maori and Pakeha, women and men, all who inhabit the  
long white cloud:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All prophets and priests, all cleaners and clerks, professors,  
shop workers, typists and teachers, job-seekers,  
invalids, drivers and doctors:  
**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All sweepers and diplomats, writers and artists, grocers,  
carpenters, students and stock-agents, seafarers,  
farmers, bakers and mystics:

**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All children and infants, all people who play:

**give to our God your thanks and praise.**

( from the new New Zealand Prayer Book )

THIRD WE HAVE THE RED RIBBON WHICH REPRESENTS  
THE BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF GOD'S  
SON JESUS, AND HIS MESSAGE OF SALVATION WHICH  
IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLE.

*Please stand to sing the Carol :*

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord.  
Late in time behold Him come.  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see –  
Hail, the incarnate Deity !  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell.  
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

**3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the Sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Please sit*

*THE BIRTH OF JESUS.*

Luke Chapter 2 verses 1 - 7; Page 1125 of the Church Bibles.

*Please remain sitting to sing the Carol :*

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.**

*THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS.*

Luke Chapter 2 Verses 8 - 20; Page 1125 of the Church Bibles.

*Leader*

“Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared  
with the first angel, singing praises to God:”

*ALL SING :*

**All glory be to God on high.  
and to the earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.**

*THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE STABLE.*

The angel came and told us about this Baby.

He said He would be a Saviour –

a Saviour Who brings peace to the world –

and we’d find Him in a manger –

And we came –

And here He is, lying in the straw !

We must go and tell everyone !

We’ve seen Jesus !

*Leader :* Let us praise God for His glory.

*ALL :* **We give thanks and praise to You, Father God, for the glorious  
birth of Your Son Jesus.**

*VISITORS FROM THE EAST.*

Matthew Chapter 2 Verses 1-12, Page 1048 of the Church Bibles.

*Leader :* Let us praise God for His glory.

*ALL :* **We give thanks and praise to You, Father God, for the glorious  
gift of Your son Jesus.**

*Please stand to sing the Carol :*

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

*Chorus :*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and 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*

The First Nowell

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

*Chorus*

5. Then entered in those wise  
men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His  
presence  
Their gold and myrrh and  
frankincense.

*Chorus*

6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our Heavenly  
Lord,  
That hath made heaven and  
earth of nought,  
And with His blood mankind  
hath bought.

*Chorus*

*Please sit.*

*MORE ABOUT THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.*

Acts Chapter 10 verses 34 - 43; Page 1219 of the Church Bibles.

**Leader :** Let us praise God for His glory.

**ALL :** We give thanks and praise to You, redeemer God, for the  
sacrificial life of Your Son which made Your glory available to  
all peoples.

FOURTH WE HAVE THE CANDLE WHICH REPRESENTS  
JESUS AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

*Message*

*Please stand to sing*

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Omitted for copyright reasons;*

*click for more information*

**Leader :** Let us praise God for His glory.

**ALL :** We give thanks and praise to You, almighty God, for Your  
glorious light that shines in Your people.

●● **The Christingle !** ●●

*We stand to sing :*

Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy Birthday dear Jesus –  
Happy Birthday to You.

*Blessing the Christingle.*

**C a n d l e s o u t !**

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers*

**Leader :** Thank you, God, for Your wonderful glory – the glory of Your creation, the glorious birth of Your Son Jesus, and the glorious light of Your love that can shine in those who believe and follow You.

We thank You for Jesus and all He means to us. May our understanding and love for Him increase during the coming year.

We pray for all who are sad and lonely at this time; please bring joy and companionship into their lives.

We pray for all who are at war with one another. May Your kingdom of peace begin to reign in their hearts today and always.

**ALL :** Amen

*We sing 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

**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.**

**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.**

**3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, loves pure light,  
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Please remain standing for the Blessing.*

---

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