

St Augustine's Christingle service, 2008

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

Our theme for today's service is the JOY that comes from
loving and serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 first part of the Christingle is the orange

The orange - the wonderful world that God created.

the FLY;

the FANTAIL;

and the RAT.

Three true stories :



Let us pray –

Thank You, God, for the joy of receiving encouragement through Your creation.

Thank You, God, for the wonders of Your creation.

Thank You that You speak to many of us in many different ways as we experience the wonders and joys of the world You created for us to live in.

Help us to be good stewards of Your creation, Lord. Amen

ALL We thank You, God, for the times when the wonders of Your creation encourage us. Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. And through all His wondrous
childhood
He would honour, and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly
maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.**

Once in royal David's City
**4. For He is our childhood's
pattern;
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.**

**5. 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.**

**6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children,
crowned
All in white, shall wait around.**

Please sit.

The second part is the four arms

Four examples of joy which come from the stories of the birth of Jesus

The first arm –

the joy of being called by God to be His servant.

The birth of Jesus is announced by the Angel Gabriel, to Mary (Luke Chapter 1 verses 26-35 and verse 38) and to Joseph (Matthew Chapter 1 verses 19-21, 24-25)

The birth of Jesus; Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-7

"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."

Let us pray –

Thank You, God, for the joy of being called by You to be Your servants.
Thank You God, for the way You helped Mary and Joseph to follow Your plan for their lives and to become Your servants.

Help us, also, to desire to be Your servants and to discern and follow the plan You have for our lives. Amen.

ALL Help us, God, to discern and follow Your call to us to serve You. Amen

Please stand to sing the hymn

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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus : I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

Please sit.

The second arm –

the joy of experiencing the Glory of the Lord

The shepherds learn about the birth of Jesus and go to visit Him (Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-20)

"At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic host singing God's praises –"

ALL (sing twice)

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

Let us pray –

Thank You, God, that the shepherds experienced the joy of seeing the Glory of the Lord.

Thank You, God, for the times when we have experienced an overwhelming sense of Your presence. These times are wonderful and precious to us.

Help us to continue to know Your presence in our lives even when You seem very far away. Amen.

Please sit.

The third arm –

the joy of giving our gifts and talents to God

The Wise Men bring their gifts to Jesus; Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-2, 5-6, 10-11.

Wise Men

Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?

ALL

Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.

Let us pray –

Thank You, God, that the Wise Men experienced the joy of giving their gifts and talents to You.

Help us, too, to find how we can use our gifts and talents in Your service. Amen.

We prayerfully sing twice –

**What can I give Him,
Poor as I am ?
If I were a shepherd
I would give a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him ? –
I will give my heart.**

The fourth arm –

the joy of reading God's Holy Bible



Let us pray –

Lord God, may we all experience the joy of reading and understanding Your word as we read the Bible.

Thank You, God, for the Bible.

We thank You for all it means to us. May we read it regularly.

Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that He may teach us how to understand and put into practice all that the Bible teaches us.

We thank You that the Bible has been translated into so many languages and ask that You will help provide even more translations, so that people of other languages may read Your Word in their own language too. Amen.

ALL

Thank You, God, for the Bible; help us to read it regularly and follow its teachings. Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn

From heaven you came.

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Please sit.

The third part is the red ribbon

the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Son, Who
willingly gave His life for all people everywhere

the Message

Let us pray –

Thank You, Jesus, for Your willing sacrifice on the Cross.

Thank You that You have paid the price for our redemption.

Help us all to reach a deeper understanding of all that this means, and
to turn to Jesus in repentance and receive forgiveness for all
our sins. Amen.

The fourth, and final, part is the candle

Jesus, the light of the world.

John Chapter 8 verse 12 :

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life, and
will never walk in darkness.

Please stand to sing the hymn

Jesus bids us shine

1. Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night:
In this world of darkness, so we must shine;
You in your small corner, and I in mine.
2. Jesus bids us shine first of all for Him;
Well He sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
He looks down from heav'n to see us shine;
You in your small corner, and I in mine.
3. Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
Many kinds of darkness in the world are found -
Sin, and want, and sorrow; so we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus says :

Let YOUR light shine in the world !

Please sit.

Let us pray –

Lord God, we thank You that You desire us to share the love and light of
Jesus with others.

Please keep our Jesus candle burning bright within us so that we may be
living witnesses to Jesus throughout our lives. Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn

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 !

Making the Christingles;

Lighting the Christingles;

*Please stand to sing Happy Birthday to
Jesus twice :*

Happy Birthday to You.
Happy Birthday to You.
Happy Birthday, dear Jesus -
Happy Birthday to You !

Blessing the Christingles.

Please blow out the candles !

Please sit or kneel as we prayerfully sing the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven.
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, in 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 to sing the hymn

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.

Silent Night

- 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, 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.

Please remain standing for the Blessing.

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

Our next Family Service is on March **29th** at **10 a.m.**; we would love to see you here then.

Kids' Club restarts on Tuesday March **3rd 2009** from **3.15** to **4.30 p.m..**

There will be no church services at St. Augustine's in January.
SERVICES WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY AT 10 AM ON SUNDAYS AND WILL INCLUDE A CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME IN THE HALL.

If you found some of the scriptural passages rather unfamiliar, that's possibly because this year we have chosen to use "The Message" translation of the Bible for our Christmas story.

THOSE CONTRIBUTING :

Names omitted