



ELY CATHEDRAL

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S **VIRTUAL CHRISTINGLE**



Tuesday 16 December 2025
1.30pm

Welcome to Ely Cathedral

As we look forward to Christmas, Christingle gives us the opportunity to celebrate Jesus as Light of the world.

The Christingle: the orange represents the world, the red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ, the sweets or dried fruit represent all of God's creation and finally the lit candle shows Jesus is light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

We are delighted to have the Year 5 group from Littleport Primary with us in the Cathedral for this service. Thank you to the pupils and their teachers for supporting us in enabling schools around the Diocese to join in with this Christingle service.

With special thanks to Mr Aldhouse, director of Music at Ely Cathedral for working with the children over the past few weeks and to the Cathedral Choristers for their contribution to this Virtual Christingle.

CHRISTMAS AT ELY CATHEDRAL

Thursday 18 December, 10.15am

Story and Song Time - Nativity

The final pre-schooler service of the year when the story of the Nativity will be told and some Christmas Carols sung

Friday 19 December- Monday 5 January

The Nativity Riddle Trail

Discover the story of the first Christmas through our 6 banner trail.

Monday 22 December, 10am-12pm

Christmas Themed Craft Activities

Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character. Suitable for under 12s.

Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 December, 6pm

Carol Services

Wednesday 24 December, Noon & 3pm

Crib Services

The children of the Cathedral retell the story of Christmas in this wonderful tableau of shepherds, angels and wise men.

Wednesday 24 December, 11pm

Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December

8.15 Holy Communion

10.30am Christmas Day Festal Eucharist

4pm Christmas Day Festal Evensong

HYMN

1
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

2
God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above,
Glory to God
In the highest:

Words: Latin 18th Century, tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-1880 and others
Music: *Adeste Fideles* Composer unknown (probably 18th C.) arr. Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015

WELCOME

The Dean introduces the service

READING

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60.1-3

All For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sung by the Cathedral Choristers and children from Littleport Primary School

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 And they say that His name was Jesus.

*He come from the glory,
 He come from the glorious kingdom.
 He come from the glory,
 He come from the glorious kingdom.
 Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!
 He come from the glory,
 He come from the glorious kingdom.*

The angels sang when the baby was born,
 The angels sang when the baby was born,
 The angels sang when the baby was born,
 And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.

The shepherds saw where the baby was born,
 The shepherds saw where the baby was born,
 The shepherds saw where the baby was born,
 And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.

The Wise Men went where the baby was born,
 The Wise Men went where the baby was born,
 The Wise Men went where the baby was born,
 And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.

Words and music: traditional Caribbean

READING

A reading from the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

All For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Sung by children from Littleport Primary School

Can you see what we have made
For this very special day?
An orange for our planet home
Circling around the sun.

See the food with colours bright
Tastebuds tingle at the sight
Let's be thankful as we share
God's good gifts are everywhere.

Count the seasons as we sing
Summer, autumn, winter, spring
Sing to God who sends the rain
Making all things new again.

Why then is the world we made
Wrapped around with ribbon red?
Red is for our ransom paid
When our Lord was crucified.

*Candlelight, burning bright,
Chase the darkness of the night
Christ the light, light our way
Live inside our hearts today*

There's a world I'm dreaming of
Where there's peace and joy and love
Light of Jesus everywhere
This is my Christingle prayer.

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick b.1950

CHRISTINGLE MAKING

Ending with:

Lord Jesus, light of the world;
as we hold our Christingles,
we thank you for Your great love for us and creation.
We pray for people in places of darkness at this time,
children and families who do not have enough food,
clean water or safe places to call home.
Help us to take this light into the world
and to share your love with others.
Amen

CAROL

*sung by Ely Cathedral Choristers
During which the Christingles are lit*

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
'Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!'

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Words and music: Sir John Rutter b. 1945

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Jesus, child of Mary, who struggled to find shelter even when you were born: we pray for families who have no secure homes to live in.

All Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, sleeping in a manger, born in poverty: we pray for refugees and everyone with no safe place to go.

All Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, sharing a stable with the animals: we pray for all creation, for our care for this fragile earth.

All Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings, we pray for the powerful, that they will make wise decisions; and for those who have no power, that you might keep them safe.

All Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, who grew up to heal so many people, we pray for people we know who need healing.

Lord, Jesus,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.

BLESSING

Bishop May the light of Christ shine in your hearts this Christmas so that you may be filled with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, ✠ the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ, to bring light to all whom you meet.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

CAROL

1
God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day.
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2
From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

3
But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:

4
Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Words and Music: Traditional arr. Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015