



# **LANCASTER PRIORY**

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**3.00pm**

## **Welcome to Lancaster Priory**

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Christmas is probably the most loved celebration of the Christian year and is celebrated by many who would not go to church at any other time of year. At Christmas we remember one of the great truths of Christianity. We remember that God loves us and wants to be with us in all the ups and downs of our lives. God chose to live a human life being born to a poor and apparently insignificant family. As we celebrate Jesus' birth we are celebrating this wonderful truth, that God has come to live with us.

Our Christingles consist of:

- An orange, representing the world
- A candle pushed into the centre of the orange, then lit, representing Jesus Christ as Light of the World
- A red ribbon wrapped around the orange or a paper frill around the candle, representing the Blood of Christ
- Sweets skewered on cocktail sticks pushed into the orange, representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.

This service can be traced back to the 1700s but was made popular in this country in the late 1960s, when it became associated with the Children's Society. Every year Christingle raises over a million pounds to support vulnerable children living in our country.

The restrictions under which our services are being conducted at the moment are part of our responsibility to ensure that all who worship and visit the priory feel safe and valued. These are available on an additional flyer at the back of church. Thank you for your patience.

## **A Very Merry Christmas from everyone at Lancaster Priory!**

*Before the service the Jazz Band will play a medley of Christmas music.*

## The Welcome and Notices

*The priest welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

Dear friends, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the Light of the World. In this service we hear and receive this wonderful story and the message of the coming of Christ, and we offer God our thanksgiving in prayer and carols.

## Carol

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 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.

4 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.

5 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.

## **The Greeting**

Christ has brought us out of darkness;  
To live in his marvellous light.

## **The Lighting of a Candle**

Today we remember Jesus and the story of His birth;  
**Jesus is our King.**

*A candle is lit.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;  
**Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;  
**Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever;  
**Jesus is our Life.**

*We sit.*

## **Bible Reading** Luke 2.1-7

The Christmas Story

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

Thanks be to God.

# Carol

*We stand.*

*Come and join the celebration,  
it's a very special day.  
Come and share our jubilation;  
there's a new King born today!*

See, the shepherds  
hurry down to Bethlehem,  
gaze in wonder  
at the Son of God who lay before them:  
*Come and join the celebration...*

Wise men journey,  
led to worship by a star,  
kneel in homage  
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so:  
*Come and join the celebration...*

"God is with us"  
round the world the message bring;  
he is with us,  
"Welcome", all the bells on earth are pealing:  
*Come and join the celebration...*

Words and music *V Collison*

## A Chocolate Nativity

# Carol

*During this carol a collection will be taken for the work of the Children's Society.  
Please return your boxes to the sidespeople.*

1 See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore  
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the saviour of the world!

*O now carry me...*

3 Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;  
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can  
be the saviour of us all.

*O now carry me...*

4 Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

*O now carry me...*

*Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)*

# The Christingle

*We remember what the Christingle means.*

## Christmas Music

*While the band plays a Christmas selection, all the Christingles will given to the children in the pews and be lit. Children must remain in their seats and be supervised by an adult.*

## The Christingle Song

*Solo*

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 sweets as a sign of His goodness.  
A life freely given, a love we can know,  
The light of the world ever with us.

**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 sweets 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.  
The red in the ribbon for love that He showed,  
And sweets 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.

*Solo*

Light up a candle and hold out the globe,  
Here in the darkness the light of the world.

Words and music by *M and H Johnson*

## **The Blessing of the Christingles**

*The Christingles are held out high and the Priest prays this prayer*

Father of lights,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift:  
keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world,  
that all may believe in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Carol**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky look 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 till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to dwell with thee there.

*We extinguish our candles and sit for the prayers.*

## **The Prayers**

*At the end of the prayers the priest says*

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

*We all pray*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.

## The Prayer for The Children's Society

Lord Jesus, you came from heaven as a child and kings and shepherds saw your infinite worth, you came because you loved us, your children, and you gave everything for us because you valued us. Thank you for all those people, including The Children's Society, who work to follow your loving example. Give them everything they need to keep representing your heart to all the children they serve, whether runaways, refugees, carers, those living with disabilities or those whose families are desperately struggling to make ends meet. Give them the courage to keep championing every child's infinite worth to governments, churches, social services and communities. Give us the strength to support their work to make your love known to all your children. We make this prayer, in your name.

**Amen.**

*We pray together*

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show us how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, that we might always know you love us and always do our best to love others. Amen.

## The Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ;  
**thanks be to God.**

# Carol

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:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

3. See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: 'Glory to God  
in the highest:'  
*O come, let us adore him...*

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

Latin 18th Century Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 & others

Today's Booklet is sponsored by...

Kaarina Leong

Merry Christmas to all from Kaarina, Bella, Jonas and Evelyn

### **Acknowledgements**

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