

**[H] ST LAURENCE
CHURCH**
Diocese of Canterbury



All Age Family Communion
1st February 2026
Christingle (Candlemas)

As we gather and prepare to join in worship, music is played on the organ.

Opening Hymn

Please sit

Greeting and Welcome

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to our Christingle Service today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

The Christingle speaks of the world in which we live, and we pray today for all Christians, that we may be mirrors of the light of Christ in the world; for those who do not know the light of Christ in their lives; for those who bear responsibility in our world for government, education, commerce, and

communication; for all children and for young people who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing; for those who are in special need, the sick and anxious, the lonely and fearful, and for those who are bereaved.

Opening Prayer

Father of light, 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.

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — We pray together

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

Reading please sit

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading please remain standing

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection – please sit

We stand to sing

**Father, We adore You.
Lay our lives before You.
How we love You.**

**Jesus, We adore You.
Lay our lives before You.
How we love You.**

**Spirit, We adore You.
Lay our lives before You.
How we love You.**

*We gather in a circle around
the Church in preparation for
the Lighting of the
Christingles. This is done in
silence.*

Prayers

On this feast of Candlemas, we pray for children growing up in families struggling to make ends meet.

Lord Jesus, it hurts to think about this. Part of us would rather not. We'd rather look away. Help us to reach out, and come alongside them. We thank you for the Christingle and the ribbon that represents your love wrapping itself around the world.

We ask you to wrap your loving arms around each child in need today.

Be close to all the children we see on television screens in war torn areas who are frightened and do not have enough of the basic things they need.

Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the work of The Children's Society. Bless their projects to help children and their families. Help them to continue to challenge us to care, give and speak up on behalf of others. Bless every area of their work. Uphold their staff in your love and may every child who comes into contact with them continue to receive the love and practical care they need.

Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the work of The Children's Society to raise awareness about those in difficult situations, and explain the effects new policies might have on those children who don't have a voice. Help those with power to hear what we are saying to put children and their childhoods above power, popularity or money.

Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves and for our local community. We pray for our schools, and those in special need of our prayers. Lord, we can't love like you do in our own strength.

Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are sick and suffering.
Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We remember all those recently departed and we pray for those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.
Come, Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

We bring to the Lord our own particular prayers.

Merciful Father
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

We Share God's Peace – we sing
**Shalom, Shalom,
May peace be with you,
Throughout your days;
In all that you do,
May peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

(Repeat)

After the Christingles are extinguished we return to our seats.

Hymn during which a collection in aid of the **Children Society** will be made.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

We give thanks for all that God has done for us.
God the Father created the heavens, the earth and everything in them; and created us in his own image.
Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like us, and died to save us.
Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us together as the people of God

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to worship this God who loves.

We sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Ho-
sanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Ho-
sanna in the highest.**

Please sit/kneel

We praise you Father that before Jesus our Saviour suffered and died, he gave us this holy meal to share and told us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **Amen.**

The Fraction

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei - We sing
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have
mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have
mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, grant
us peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access – *we pray together*

**We do not presume to come
to this your table, merciful
Lord, trusting in our own
righteousness, but in your
manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs
under your table. But you are
the same Lord whose nature
is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious
Lord, so to eat the flesh of
your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood, that
our sinful bodies may be
made clean by his body and
our souls washed through
his most precious blood, and
that we may evermore dwell
in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are
called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you, but only say
the word, and I shall be
healed.**

***The Distribution of
Communion***

Communion Hymn

Notices

Final Prayer and Blessing

May the light that is Jesus
lead you always.

May your heart be more for
the people around you than
yourself.

May your resolve be to reach
out in love and come along-
side those in need with God's
generous compassion.

And may your life be a witness
of the blessing that comes
with giving, for the sake of all
God's children, and for the
glory of God's name. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the divine assistance re-
main with us always.

**And with all our brothers
and sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful
departed through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.
And rise in glory. Amen.

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***The oranges were do-
nated by the Tesco
branch in Hawkhurst. We
would like to thank them
very much for
helping us.***

The Children's Society

How Christingle helps young
people

Over the last 50 years,
Christingle celebrations have
raised millions of pounds to
support our life-changing work
with children and young peo-
ple. The money you raise can
help connect them to our ser-
vices, and rekindle the hope
they deserve.

The generosity and support
shown at Christingle services
is overwhelming and every
year we are reminded of the
compassionate Christinglers
that help bring hope to young
people across the country.

The Christingle

