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# **God's Gift in Creation**

**A Christingles  
Service**

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## Welcome

*A minister welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

Praise the Lord all the earth!

We have come together in the presence of God our Creator:  
to rejoice in his gifts to us in creation;  
to celebrate the coming of Jesus - God's greatest gift;  
and to offer our thanks to God in prayer and song.

Praise the Lord all the earth!

The light of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*

*The central candle is lit.*

We light this light in the name of Jesus:  
**we are gathered in his light.**

*All*

## Psalm Song

*Stand* Psalm 104: Celtic Psalms, selected verses.<sup>i</sup>

## Prayers of penitence

We are gathered in the light that surrounds us and fills our world  
and today we bring into the healing light of Christ  
all that brings darkness into our lives and into God's good  
creation.

In a beautiful world, given to us by God,  
we have not always treasured the gifts of the Earth:  
and our choices are damaging our planet home.

Lord have mercy

*All*

**Lord have mercy**

In a hungry and needy world  
where many are displaced because of climate change  
we have not always shared the gifts that we enjoy.

Christ have mercy

*All*

**Christ have mercy**

In a world full of gifts  
we have not always lived as you intended  
and we have not always cared for your creation.

Lord have mercy

*All*

**Lord have mercy**

May the Father forgive us;  
lead us to new ways of living  
and strengthen us  
to walk in his light  
and to work for the renewal of creation  
in the power of the Spirit.

*All*

**Amen**

## Gloria Song

*Stand* The Peruvian Gloria<sup>ii</sup>

## Liturgy of the Word

*During the reading, poles are brought in symbolising the gifts of light; growing things; sun, moon and stars; animals and people. These are used to create a life size Christingle at the front around the central light.*

In the beginning... A reading based on Genesis 1.1 - 2.2

Long, long ago before time began there was...

Nothing.

Darkness was everywhere and the darkness was very deep.

God's Spirit moved across the chaos

and in the darkness, God spoke and said:

'Let there be light,' and there was light and order and wonder.

This was God's first gift and it was beautiful.

God separated the light from the darkness

giving us the gifts of day and night, evening and morning.

God drew a line across the sky separating the water above from  
the water beneath

sweeping the sky over and above all things and setting the clouds  
racing in the air.

And it was beautiful.

*Bring in the pole with gifts of light, water and clouds*

God gave us the gift of dry land, bringing it out from the water  
and making a place for things to take root and grow.

It was the gift of our good Earth,

of soil, mud and slime.

plants and trees, flowers, shrubs and hedges;

grassland, moorland and mossy ground;

flowers and blossom; petals and stems.

All manner of things green, multi-coloured and growing,  
sprouted up and flourished.

And they were beautiful.

*Bring in the pole with gifts of flowers and grasses; plants and trees.*

And God gave us a way to count our days -  
a way to tell the seasons and mark the passing of years.  
He set a great light in the sky to brighten our day  
a white light to lead us through the darkness to each new morning  
and stars that twinkled with far away light from distant reaches of  
space.  
And they were all beautiful.

*Bring in the pole with gifts of sun and moon and stars; symbols of  
time/seasons.*

God gave us the gift of the creatures of sea and sky:  
huge sea monsters and winged birds.  
They were all of every imaginable colour, pattern and shape.  
And the gift of animals:  
bouncing, jumping and creeping ones;  
scuttling, swimming and leaping ones;  
scaly, furry, scratchy, smooth, hairy, soft and bristly ones;  
huge and tiny and every size between.  
And they were beautiful.  
And then God made people  
and they were the most amazing of God's gifts  
different from one another and equally beautiful.

*Bring in poles with gifts of animals. People fill in between  
the poles.*

God looked at all of creation -  
its beauty and energy,  
Its still and dark places;  
Its mystery and its brightness,  
the creatures large and small that filled it  
and the people who were made in God's own image  
diverse and individual.

And God saw that it was all very beautiful.  
God blessed all of creation and said: 'it is good.'  
And then God placed this precious and beautiful gift in human hands.

*Watch a video of Louis Armstrong's "What a wonderful world"<sup>iii</sup>*

## Psalm Song

*Stand* Psalm 104: Celtic Psalms, selected verses.

## Reading

*Sit* John 1. 1-3; 14; 16 and John 3:16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## Reflection<sup>iv</sup>

*Stand The Christingles are distributed and lit.*

## Carol

*“Light up a candle and hold out the globe”<sup>v</sup>*

*The red ribbon is wrapped around the giant Christingle.*

*During this action, the Creed is sung.<sup>vi</sup>*

*The reflection concludes with the following prayer.*

The love of God, like this red ribbon,  
surrounds us on every side;  
it is the red thread that leads us home.  
God’s greatest gift of Jesus  
makes whole a broken world  
and gives us hope when we are in darkness.  
Jesus meets us in the quiet and lonely places  
when we feel alone or afraid  
when the difficulties in our world seem too big for us;  
and reminds us that and all will be well.  
Though we cannot see the way ahead.  
the light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness will never overcome it.  
May we walk always in this light  
and live as children of light.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Sit*      *Please sit or kneel.*

*The following response may be used:*

God our creator:

*All*      **teach us to care for your world.**

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

## Carol

*Stand*    "O little town of Bethlehem"

## Conclusion

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8.12

As we blow out your candles, watch how the light changes.  
Now there is not only one light,  
but we are called to be lights in the world.

We pray together:

*All*      **Light of Christ, fill our hearts.  
Light of Christ, direct our path.  
Light of Christ, shine in our darkness;  
now and always.  
Amen.**



Go into the world that God has made  
delight in the gifts of creation  
treasure all that God has made  
care for the Earth and all God's gifts  
and treat all of God's gifts with gentleness.

*All*     **Amen.**

*Reprise: "What a wonderful world"*

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chooselife  
WORSHIP AND ACTION FOR CREATION

## Preparation notes

Think about how to make your celebration eco-friendly: use recyclable material and think about what will happen to the materials after the service.

You will need to construct four poles representing the gifts of creation. Broom handles and a variety of fabrics and objects will be needed. Try to use contrasting colours for each one. This can be done as a workshop activity for which you will need a range of craft materials. During the activity there are opportunities to reflect on the colour variety and beauty of all that God has made. What colour is a cloud? Where do we find water? Which animal is the most surprising or amazing?

You will need a large candle and candle holder - the size of the pascal candle - which you will need to position centrally in the space and a large length of red ribbon or rope or paper chain made from (recycled) red paper.

Before the service you will need to choose volunteers who can assist in making the circle between the creation poles.

The text for the creation reading can be done with one narrator or you can use the script with five voices.

During the service, a life-size Christingle will be constructed around a central light.

You might be able to organise an intergenerational music group for this service and the Celtic Psalms setting of Psalm 104 works well for this.

Play and sing Psalm 104 (Celtic Psalms) as people gather.

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<sup>i</sup> Psalm 104 *Praise the Lord, all the earth*. You can download a copy, listen to an extract or purchase a score on the Celtic Psalms website here <https://www.celticpsalms.com/portfolio/psalm-104-praise-the-lord-all-the-earth/>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://hymnary.org/tune/gloria\\_peru](https://hymnary.org/tune/gloria_peru)

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iii [https://youtu.be/rBrd\\_3VMC3c?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/rBrd_3VMC3c?feature=shared)

iv This can be a talk or interview or video presentation. Invite the congregation to think about the best gift they have ever received and to consider how they treat those gifts. How does our experience of precious gifts help us to think about God's gifts to us and how we should treat them.

Link to Christingle: remembering God's gifts in creation and the gift of Jesus. The reflection could also be done as a series of images on video, showing the many gifts of creation.

v <http://www.christianwebresources.co.uk/hymns/hymn/729/>

vi Timothy Dudley Smith "We believe in God the Father" to the tune Nettleton.