



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

A candle-lit
celebration of the
light of Jesus.

Sunday 14th December at 10am
St. Paul's Church, Longridge

The
HOPE
of **CHRISTMAS**
St Lawrence with St Paul, Longridge

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE,
in which we celebrate Jesus, the Light
of the World, and the new life and hope he
brings. Through this service we support of
the work of The Children's Society, who help
children and young people across the coun-
try to hold onto light and hope themselves.
Today we have an opportunity during our
Christingle service to celebrate Jesus, the
Light, coming into a world of darkness, and
share that light and hope with others.

THE WELCOME

May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in him, so that you
may overflow with hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13

Christ has brought us
out of darkness

To live in his wonderful light.

Christ has brought us
from death to life

To live in his glorious hope.

WE SING | LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that
You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship...

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon the cross (x2)

So here I am to worship...

JUNIOR CHOIR SING | LONGING FOR LIGHT

We all join in with the chorus:

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.

THE ACCLAMATION

Jesus, Light of the World,
Shine in this place.
Jesus, Hope of the World,
Live in our hearts.
Jesus, Light of the World,
Shine in our lives.
Jesus, Hope of the World,
Bring hope to the ends of the earth.
Amen.

SAVING SORRY

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE BIBLE READING

Matthew 11: 2-11 (GNT)

WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIST heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind?

What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

CHRISTINGLE REFLECTION

WE SING | SHINE

Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me

Shine from the inside out
That the world will see you live in me

You know me and you love me
You fill me, so send me to...

Shine

Know me, love me, fill me, send me
Know me, love me, fill me, send me
Know me, love me, fill me, send me

Shine

THE PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, bringer of light to this world, we pray that your light would shine in us and that we may reflect your light, so that it transforms our community. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus bringer of light to the vulnerable, we pray for those in need of your care and compassion. Shine your light on those who feel they are living in darkness, those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Give us courage that we bring strength to the weary, joy to the downhearted and peace to those who are restless. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of light to children and young people, we pray for young people who are in dark situations. Shine your light on those who feel hopeless, afraid and without hope, that they may have a brighter future. We pray for the work of The Children's Society, and all those who support their work with vulnerable young people. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of light to those who walk in the shadow of grief, we pray for the family and friends of those whose earthly journeys have ended. Shine your light on those who feel sad, lost and lonely, that they may be comforted by your spirit and know your presence. We particularly remember Eric Smith, Martha Wallbank and Jim Ashcroft, may your perpetual light and glory shine upon them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We bring our prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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**

MAKING THE CHRISTINGLES

We make our Christingles during which time the Worship Group lead us in singing 'Long ago prophets knew and 'Come thou long expected Jesus'.

WE SING | LONG AGO PROPHETS KNEW

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come born a Jew,
Come to make all things new,
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human:
Ring bells ...

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid,
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected:

Ring, bells ...

Journey ends: where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar,
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour do not tarry.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes, when he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

WE SING | COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee

Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

By Thine own eternal Spirit
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Once our Christingles are made we all gather into a large circle around the side aisles of the church facing inwards towards the pews so our Christingles can be lit. Then holding the Christingles carefully we sing the Christingle Song and say the Christingle prayer. Please note water buckets are placed at each of the four corners of the church

WE SING | THE CHRISTINGLE SONG

(To the tune of Sing Hosanna)

The Christingle begins
with an orange,
Like the world which the
Lord God made,
For creation is full of his glory,
All around we see His love displayed.

Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, it's the
light of Christ.
Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle!
Sing Christingle, light of Christ.

Every year we give
thanks for the seasons,
And the fruits of the earth to share,
The Christingle is here to remind us,
That the love of God is everywhere.

Sing Christingle...

God of love, we give
thanks now for Jesus,
We remember his birth again,
But the red ribbon around the Christingle,
Tells the story of his cross and pain.

Sing Christingle...

To complete the Christingle:
a candle,
Telling us of the world's true light,
For the darkness shall not overcome it,
Jesus shines on in the darkest night!

Sing Christingle...

THE CHRISTINGLE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Hope for the world, I hold this
Christingle as a sign of your hope.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The candle, planted deep within the world,
as a sign that you made your home among
us, and lived with the poor and neglected.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The ribbon, wrapped around the earth,
a sign of your love shown on the cross,
enfolding the whole world with your
saving love.

May we share your light in the darkness.

The fruits and sweets, signs of all the
good things you have made, given to
us that we might share them fairly so
everyone can have enough.

May we share your light in the darkness.

Lord Jesus, Light and hope of the World,
as I hold this Christingle and think about
your great love for me, help me to take
this light out into the world and to share
your love and hope with others, especially
those who need it most.

Amen.

We blow the Christingles out as we return to
our seats.

WE SING | SHINE JESUS SHINE

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord and let there be light

Lord I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me try me consume all my
darkness
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine...

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

Shine Jesus shine...

THE SENDING OUT

We go in peace:

**To share the peace of God
with all we meet.**

We go in love:

**To share God's gift of love
with the world.**

We go in hope

**To share hope for the world
with everyone**

We go in the light of Christ:

To shine as lights in the world.

To the glory of God the Father.

To donate directly to the work of the
The Childrens Society, via their Just Giving
web page, simply scan this QR code.



THOSE DEPARTED

Rest in Peace

**ERIC SMITH
MARTHA WALLBANK
JIM ASHCROFT**

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Welcome Café

Meet weekly on Wednesdays during the
school term in St. Paul's Church Centenary
Room 3:00– 5:00pm

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Brew Time

Every Wednesday from 8.50am-11am
in St Paul's Centenary Room.

Serving tea, coffee, toast, crumpets and
cakes! There's always a warm and friendly
welcome.

Please Note! The last Brewtime before
Christmas will be 17th December. It will re-
open Wednesday 7th January 2025.

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Next Sunday's Services -
December 21st - Advent 4

10:00am 'Service of Holy Communion'
including children's Church at St. Paul's
Church/Live stream

6.30pm 'Service of Nine Lessons and
Carols' at St. Paul's Church

**Please dont rush off - you are warmly
invited you to stay for refreshments
in the Centenary Room after the service
has ended.**

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE WITH ST PAUL

The
HOPE
of CHRISTMAS
St Lawrence with St Paul, Longridge



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

A traditional Christmas service of readings and carols.

9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

6:30pm on Sunday 21st December
at St. Paul's Church, Longridge

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine
All welcome

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Family friendly fun – dress up as your favourite erib character, angel or animal and join our all age celebration. Sing carols and hear how the angels and the shepherds kept watch over a stable in Bethlehem on that first Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

5-6pm on Wednesday 24th December
at St. Paul's Church, Longridge

A traditional late night communion gives the perfect opportunity for a deep breath before emerging into the joy of Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

11:30pm on Wednesday 24th December
at St. Lawrence Church, Longridge

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Bring your children and some presents to open with us at a fun service with carols

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ALL AGE CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

10am on Thursday 25th December
at St. Lawrence Church, Longridge