



### ***Masterpiece series: All-Age Christingle service***

**Date:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

**Speakers:** Elaine Webster, Eleanor Masters

**Key Verses:** **Genesis 1:1-5, Matthew 26:26-28, Ecclesiastes 3:1, John 8:12**

### **Talk Summary**

This week we opened our Advent series with a Christingle service, looking at Jesus as the light of the world.

The Christingle (meaning 'Christ Child' or 'Christ Light') is a practical picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the basic tenets of Christian faith. The orange represents the world: Genesis 1 affirms that God created the whole world and throughout the Bible he is pictured as holding it in his hands and caring for it. We spent a moment holding our oranges and thinking about how incredible it is to have a God who hold everything so tightly and faithfully.

The ribbon around the orange represents the blood of Jesus, covering and encircling the world. In Matthew 26:26-28, Jesus takes bread and wine and tells his disciples about the new covenant, the promise of God to forgive sin and make the world new through Jesus' death and resurrection. As we tied the ribbons on, we thought about how Jesus' sacrifice gives hope to a world which is often very dark.

Next, we took cocktail sticks and speared them into Haribo, then put the Haribo sticks into the oranges near the top. These represented the four seasons – literally and figuratively – that we may have gone through in the last year. We were encouraged to thank God for every season and to trust Him with it, and read the passage from Ecclesiastes which can help us reorientate towards trusting God.

In John 8, Jesus talks about himself being the light of the world. As we set our candles in the oranges, they rise above the world and all its seasons. We reflected on Jesus' promise to be with us always and that 'all authority in heaven and on Earth has been given to him' (Matthew 28), and that the light he brings is 'light to all peoples' (John 1). Instead of lighting the Christingles in the service, we took them home as a sign that

we are to take the light of Jesus out into the world, to our neighbours and friends, not to keep it to ourselves.

### **Questions for discussion & Activities**

1. How easy do you find it to see Jesus in all the other stuff surrounding Christmas?
2. If we believe that God is holding the whole world in his hands, and his blood is enough to take away the sins of the world, how might this affect how we think about the world around us?
3. What seasons in your life have you seen God working in this year?
4. What would it look like for the light of Jesus to come in your neighbourhood and the lives of your friends?

If your group weren't at the Christingle service, you could follow the talk and make Christingles as a group (there are some leftover supplies at church, just call the office at 01216221230 to arrange pickup).

If you were in the service, you could use the Christingle(s) you made to pray for your friends and neighbours. Light the candles and pray for the love and light of Jesus to come in your area.

You could do Communion as a group to celebrate Jesus' blood being poured out for us.

### **To ponder or pray about this week...**

What might God be calling you to do as an act of love to your friends and neighbours, so that you can be part of Jesus sharing his light with them this Christmas? You could find something to do as a group, or make individual plans and pray for them together. Don't forget to add anything you do, however small, to the 1000 Acts of Courage part of the website ([bvc.so/1000acts](http://bvc.so/1000acts)) and Facebook group.