



All We Can

The *Christingle* with the Empty Stick

Welcome to the Christingle service, hosted by All We Can. We hope that this interactive script will allow you to bravely engage with the unfairness of global injustice while holding the transforming hope of the Christ light at the centre of your worship.

Preparation:

On arrival, every person will need a pack containing:

- An orange with the hole already made (messy is 'fun'...but it doesn't need to be that messy!)
- A piece of red ribbon or electrical tape
- 4 cocktail sticks
- Small packet of soft sweets and/or dried fruit
- A small 'votive' or 'tree' candles
- A small square of foil or small pie tin

You will also need available:

- Matches/lighter
- Scissors
- A few printed copies of the large print script
- Baby wipes/kitchen towel (oranges are juicy!)
- Extraordinary gifts catalogues

Promotion

Slides are available to share in your services/web pages leading up to the Christingle service.

Making the Christingle

The experience making the Christingle is really important. If you can, let everyone 'have a go' making it, the sensory, tactile nature of the creating adds to the unique experience of the Christingle service. For many people, the smell of oranges is reminiscent of Christmas time and may hold that memory for years to come.

Leading the service

The 'narrator' leads the liturgy using the script below. The congregation will be invited to follow the scripted lines on the PowerPoint (N.B. the narrator's lines and directions are not on the slides or large print script!). For the most part, there is a rhythm and rhyme to the script. Think pantomime-meets-liturgy and give yourself some time to practice.

PowerPoint

The slide changes are fast paced and will drive the script. Please ensure the wonderful person running the slideshow has a copy of the script! A large print script is also available to download for those who find slides difficult to see or follow.

There is a slide placeholders in of the PowerPoint slideshow for inserting hymns/carols. If you would like to match style, the black backdrop and 'light flare' are available to download.

Inclusion

Depending on your congregation, it might be helpful for you, or a glamorous assistant, to use a big pointer (foam finger, appropriately sized pointy stick, oversized candy cane) so everyone knows when it is their turn.

Identify before the service, who is available to assist individuals with holding the orange if they need it. Try and avoid doing it for them - try holding the orange steady and push up into the candle, or guide someone's hand, instead of holding the ribbon, candles or sticks.

Risk assessment

- Cocktail sticks are sharp - be aware of individual capacity and ensure an extra pair of hands is available if necessary.
- Small sweets and sticks are a choking hazard - see above.
- If you feel that lit candles are too great a hazard for the people you are working with, and you don't have enough people around to mitigate the risk, it is possible to use [battery lit candles](#).

Collection

If it's appropriate to take a collection for All We Can as people leave, we would be incredibly grateful!

What	Who	Script	Resources
Open	Narrator	<p>Welcome to the Christingle service.</p> <p><i>Narrator, please will you let everyone know that they are an important part of the Christingle service and have lines to say. Help everyone identify who is on the left and the right side of the room so they know when it's their turn to speak - there are also arrows on the slides to help!</i></p> <p><i>As you start the service, invite the congregation to hold the orange in both hands.</i></p>	<p>Slide: 'Welcome to our Christingle service'</p> <p>Christingle pack</p>
Sing	Everyone	Your choice of carol!	Slides
			Slide: "Christingle"
Script	Narrator	Listen! In the beginning was the world,	Slide: World > Orange Gif Christingle: Orange
	Right	...and it was big	Slide
	Left	and whole	Slide
	Right	and fruitful	Slide
	Left	and juicy!	Slide
	Narrator	[small pause] The world was bright and round, And there was enough to go around.	Slide: World > Orange Gif
	Everyone	[shouting] But we wanted more!	Slide
	Right	We wanted to chop	Slide
	Left	and peel	Slide
	Right	and divide	Slide
	Narrator	<p>and squeeze the life out of it. And God said this <i>was</i> good, Or at least, it was meant to be, So let me come down and see If we can get past greed and be free -</p> <p>[pause]</p> <p>But we cut him up too, and hung him on a tree.</p>	Slide: World > Orange Gif
Everyone	It wasn't right, and it wasn't fair.	Slide	
Make	Narrator: Let's take action!	Slide: Orange with animated red ribbon	

Make	Narrator	<i>If you are making the Christingle in the service, this is the point we will add the red ribbon/tape around the orange.</i>	Slide: Same as above <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange • Red tape or ribbon • Scissors
Chat	Narrator	Talk to the person next to you. Jesus came to show us an example of a better way of doing human relationships and what it means to be one, big, juicy orange-family, living and working together in partnership. Who has been a good example to you, in your life?	Slide: orange with animated red ribbon and question: "Who has been a good example to you in your life?"
Script	Narrator	[Cue to come back together] In the beginning was the world, (repeat as necessary until everyone is ready)	Slide: orange with static ribbon
	Right	And it was abundant	Slide
	Left	and fresh	Slide
	Right	and joyful	Slide
	Left	and tasty.	Slide
	Narrator	Speak out and take action! – What other words would you use to describe an orange? Hold yours, with the ribbon attached, in front of you and have a think. Shout them out as you think of them! [After a few responses] Jesus came to show and to share, How the world is healed when we all care, But we turned our backs and left him there,	Slide: Orange & ribbon: "Call out other words you'd use to describe an orange!"
	Everyone	It wasn't right and it wasn't fair!	Slide
	Narrator	God made all things and through him, all things were made:	No Slide!
Sing	Everyone	All things bright and beautiful All creatures great and small.	Slide (Just these two lines are sung, accompanied if available.)
Script	Narrator	Exactly, and that's what the sweets are for, Celebrating the gifts we've been given, and more, But its bitter too – the bad taste of war, The division between rich and poor:	No slide
	Everyone	It isn't right and it isn't fair.	Slide
	Narrator	No, it isn't, so put your sweets on the sticks But leave one empty to show we know,	Slide: Orange w. sweets on sticks
	Everyone	It isn't right and it isn't fair.	Slide

Make	Narrator	So sit for a minute and let's feel the pain, While hoping that one day it could be equal again.	Slides [2 – auto transitioning!]: Orange with animated cocktail sticks and cocktail sticks with animated sweets “don’t eat” “leave me empty”
		<i>Invite the congregation to divide their sweets between only three of the cocktail sticks. It feels uncomfortable to not make it even and fair, more so for some than others. You could encourage them to be brave and sit with that feeling.</i>	Christingle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange with red tape around it • 4x Cocktail sticks • Packet of sweets
	Narrator	[Cue to come back together] In the beginning was the world, (repeat as necessary until everyone is ready)	Slide: World > Orange
Script	Narrator	If you’ve made this before, it doesn’t feel right, But that’s sort of the point because it really isn’t right, That some have rights while others don’t, And some eat dinner while others won’t.	Slide: Orange, ribbon, sticks & animated sweets
	Narrator	Hold your orange up and show us, that it isn’t right and it isn’t fair. Say it with me:	Slide: Same as above
	Everyone	It isn’t right and it isn’t fair.	Slide
	Narrator	But it isn’t over, not just yet, Because there’s one more thing we need to get, A little candle, a symbol of light, That shows us again the world – juicy and bright.	Slide: orange, with ribbon, cocktail sticks & appearing candle
Make	Narrator	Now for the final piece. Hold the foil over the hole on the top of the orange and then push your candle into the middle of the foil, into the orange.	Slide: Same as above
	Narrator	<i>Invite everyone to light their candles and, when that is done, switch off the lights.</i>	Slide: ‘Christingle’
Sing	Everyone	Quiet, reflective song about light [see list at bottom]	Slides
Script	Narrator	In the beginning was the world, And God saw that it was good, And God knows that it could be good again, With a little bit of light, And a baby boy – born on a starry night. Around the world, we are helping people be their best, By listening and learning, and all the rest. So let us pray and hope, once more, That when you leave here through that door, You can be part of a story where no-one has to be poor,	Slide: Christingle with animated flame
	Everyone	For God so loved this world, then, and now, and forevermore.	Slide

Sing	Everyone	Carol of your choice	Slides
Script Script	Narrator	<p><i>Closing remark:</i> All We Can, an international development charity working on behalf of the church around the world to help tackle poverty and enable people to fulfil their potential, have helped us to put together this Christingle service. You can find out more about their work online or collect an Extraordinary Gifts catalogue from us before you leave, where you can order Christmas gifts that help make a difference in the communities where All We Can is working.</p>	Slide: Red extraordinary gifts promotion
	Narrator	If we all do our bit, and get involved, perhaps we can make it right and fair, so will you join me in saying:	Slide: Complete orange with 'Christingle' behind it
	Everyone	Let's make it right, let's make it fair.	Slide
	Narrator	Once more?	No slide
	Everyone	Let's make it right, let's make it fair.	Slide
	Narrator	Thank you and God bless	No slide
	Everyone	and a very happy Christmas to you and yours.	Slide: "And a very happy Christmas to you and yours."
Slide: 'Thank you for coming to our Christingle service'			
Slide: All You Canuary			
Slide: Complete orange with 'Christingle' behind it			

Suggested Songs and Carols

Like a candle flame StF 176

Light of the world

O Come, O Come Immanuel (incl. Oh bright and morning star) – StF 180

Longing for light StF 706 (v. 1&2)

Deep in the darkness a starlight is gleaming
StF 625

Into the darkness of this world – StF 173

Be Still for the presence of the Lord

All Things Bright and Beautiful [Winter Edition]

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all

The robins on the fences
The silvery winter sun
The frost upon the branches
That makes our fingers numb

[Chorus]

The glitter of the fresh snowfall
The icicles that look like gems
The clear blue skies and starry nights
Day beginnings and the ends.

[Chorus]

The smell of Christmas tree needles
And baking wafts from the kitchen
The red of berries and sharp green leaves
That make our decorations.

[Chorus]

The lights that brighten the darkness
The glow of the fire in the hearth
The warmth inside when the wind blows
Thoughts of friends, both near and far.