**Christingle reflection**

Most of us are very familiar with what a Christingle looks like but today I am going to suggest a different way of reflecting on God’s love to us.. It entails gathering a few bits and pieces so you may like to read this through and gather it all together before you begin!



First off - **what can you find in your home that represents the world to you?**  Something beautiful? Something round? What about a photo or picture of a landscape, a pebble, shell, anything round? See what you can find!

Let’s take a few moments to think about God’s wonderful world. What part of creation are you particularly grateful for today? A special place, a creature, another person? Give thanks for that place/creature, person.

Sadly we have all been guilty of damaging God’s creation or not appreciating it enough. Take a moment to say sorry and to pray for God’s creation where it is suffering…

The next part of the Christingle is the **red tape or ribbon** which goes around the orange representing the love and blood of Jesus, who gave his life for us and for the whole world. What can you find in your home that is red or represents love to you? It could be a piece of string or wool, a scarf, family photo, piece of jewellery, a heart shape?

Now let’s take a few moments to think about God’s love and the people who love us. Who is special to you? Whose love are you grateful for today? Give thanks for them. At this time of year and particularly in this lockdown many are feeling lonely or sad. Pray for any particular needs of those known to you.

Next is the **candle.** What does the candle represent? That’s right - it represents Jesus the light of the world, who brings joy and hope to all.

What can you find that represents a light to you? Could be a candle or a torch, a lamp or a mobile phone with the light switched on?

Now take a few moments to reflect on Jesus, Light of the World, bringer of joy and hope to all. What things make you full of joy? Give thanks for them now. Pray for those who are vulnerable at the moment, particularly those children and young people who are supported by the Children’s Society. Pray for them.

And finally what do we need to finish our Christingle? We need the **cocktail sticks with sweets or dried fruits.**  These represent all the good things that God gives us in creation.

What can you find that represents the good things God give us? It could be any foodstuff, a cuddly toy, a natural item, a plant?

What season are you most grateful for? What is your favourite animal? Give thanks for them. Some people do not have enough to eat in our own country and in the world. Pray for them..

And now if you are very clever and have collected all your items and you have a candle amongst them, you could light the candle to finish off by praying the Lords Prayer

**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.**