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**All sing: Silent Night**

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Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

**Prayer 6: The Scout Prayer:**

Dearest Jesus teach me to be generous.  
  
Teach me to love and serve You as You  
deserve,  
  
To give and not to count the cost,  
  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
  
To toil and not to seek for rest  
  
To labour and to look for no reward,  
  
Except that of knowing that I do Your Holy  
Will.  
  
Amen

**THE BLESSING**

The Blessing of Almighty God,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be  
with each one of us and those whom you  
love this Christmas and forever more.  
  
Amen

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Amen**

**THE CEREMONY OF  
THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS**

Representatives of Groups and members of  
the congregation are invited to come forward  
and light their lanterns from the Peace Light.



# The Peace Light from Bethlehem

## Ecumenical Service of Reception

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**THE ARRIVAL OF THE PEACE LIGHT**

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***Sing a Carol or Hymn of choice***

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**Opening Prayer:**

This light from Bethlehem has travelled  
far, reminding us of the light which came  
to the stable in Bethlehem when He who is  
the *Light of the World* was born.

It is our prayer that this light, and all the  
lights lit from it, will be a sign of peace in  
our villages, in our towns, in our cities, and  
in our land.

We are gathered together in the spirit of  
thanksgiving and joy, at this Service of  
Reception of the Peace Light from  
Bethlehem. May the light that shines from  
this lamp, light up our hearts and the  
hearts of the people in all of the countries  
to which it is being carried.

May we find comfort in knowing that Jesus  
has us and the whole world in His hands.

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***Sing a Carol or Hymn of choice***

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**Reader 1:** [Luke 2: 1, 3 - 7]

At that time the emperor issued a decree for a  
census to be taken.  
Everyone had to go to be registered in his  
own town.

Joseph set out from Nazareth in Galilee.  
As he belonged to the family of David, he  
went to King David's town of Bethlehem in  
Judea, to be registered with Mary, his wife,  
who was with child.

They were in Bethlehem when it came time for  
her to have her child.

And she gave birth to a son, her first born.  
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and  
laid him in a manger, because there was no  
place for them in the Inn.

**Reader 2:** [Isaiah 9: 5-6]

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is  
given, and the government will be upon his  
shoulder, and his name will be called  
"Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace".

**Reader 3:** [Luke 1: 78 - 79]

This is the work of the mercy of our God, who  
comes from on high as a rising sun, shining  
on those who live in darkness and in the  
shadow of death.

**Reader 4:** [Matthew: 5: 14 - 16]

You are like light for the whole world. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven.

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*Sing a Carol or Hymn of choice*

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**The lighting of the  
PEACE LIGHT from BETHLEHEM  
for distribution to the four  
provinces.**

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*Sing a Carol or Hymn of choice*

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As a symbol of sharing, we will now light the Dublin Peace Light Candle and the Lamps that will travel tomorrow to the four corners of Ireland – to the North: the South: the East and the West

*All pray:*

**“May these Peace Lights from Bethlehem  
travel in safety and be received as a sign  
of our willingness  
to be Messengers of Peace”**

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**Prayer 1:**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, born in a stable, yet a light to all peoples of the World, bless all who carry this peace light and all who will receive it, that your peace and joy may dwell in their hearts and homes so filling them with your love now and always.

**Prayer 2:**

Slow us down, O Lord, this Advent, so we may understand the darkness we are in, the darkness of fear that comes with wanting more, and the fear of having less.

Grant us the light of patience as we wait for your message of peace and love.

A love that brings us true dignity and security,

A love that embraces all, that enriches all, That calls us all to share justly and celebrate joyfully.

**A REFLECTION**

In Palestine an eternal flame burns in the Church of the Nativity in the little town of Bethlehem – this is the place where Mary and Joseph went 2 thousand years ago and where the baby Jesus was born.

On Wednesday evening last, a small ceremony was held in the Grotto where a Palestinian and an Israeli Scout took a light from the flame and carried it to Tel Aviv airport.

At the airport the Peace Light flame was given to a young Austrian Scout who brought it to Vienna.

Last Saturday afternoon a Peace Light Service was held in Vienna.

A young Scout carried the ‘flame’ to the front of the Church and lit the Vienna Peace Candle, just as we here tonight have done when we lit the Dublin Peace Light Candle.

Representatives of Scout associations from all over the World were then invited to light their

lanterns from this candle and to take this symbol of Peace home to their own countries.

The light with us here this evening was carried by Scouts, by train and by car, bus and on foot through Austria, Switzerland and France and through the Channel Tunnel over to Dover in England.

The light next travelled to Holyhead where it was brought on Stena Line by Scouts over the Irish Sea to Dublin.

During the next few days this ‘Peace Light from Bethlehem’ will be taken by thousands of young people to Churches and other places of Christian worship; to Hospitals and to Hostels for homeless people, across the length and breadth of Ireland.

As Messengers of Peace please share this Light of Peace from Bethlehem with as many people as you can.

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*Sing a Carol or Hymn of choice*

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**Prayer 3:**

May the kindly spirit of Christmas spread its radiance far and wide, so all the world may feel the glow, of this Holy Christmastide.

May this Light of Peace with us today that has travelled over miles, bring joy and hope to many, and fill each face with smiles.

So may every heart and home, continue through the year, to feel the warmth and wonder of this season of good cheer.

And may it bring us closer, to God and one another, with every stranger known as friend, whether Sister or a Brother.

**Prayer 4: Responsorial Psalm**

**[R] Through us Lord let your light shine.**  
We remember all who are sad or lonely, or those who are ill or disabled. **[R]**

We remember the poor, hungry, refugees, homeless and those who suffer from the pressures of life. **[R]**

We remember those who suffer through the unkindness, hate and oppression of others. **[R]**

We remember the anxious, the unemployed, and those who find no purpose in life. **[R]**

We remember all members of Scouting and Guiding who in the past year have Gone Home to God. **[R]**

We remember all in the family of Scouting and Guiding that they may live their lives in the true spirit of their Law and Promise. **[R]**

**Prayer 5: The Peace Light Prayer [All]**

**Light of Bethlehem:** burn brightly in our hearts this Christmas.

**Light of Peace:** heal the bitter wounds in our community show us the path of forgiveness and love.

**Light of Joy:** fill our homes with happiness - cast out the darkness of conflict or worry.

**Light of Comfort:** strengthen the sick, the needy, the prisoners and all those who cannot be home on Christmas Day.

**Light of Hope:** guide our way forward as we begin a New Year.

**Light of the World:** teach us to love you more and more each day.

**Light of Bethlehem:** shine in our lives this  
Christmas and always.  
**Amen.**