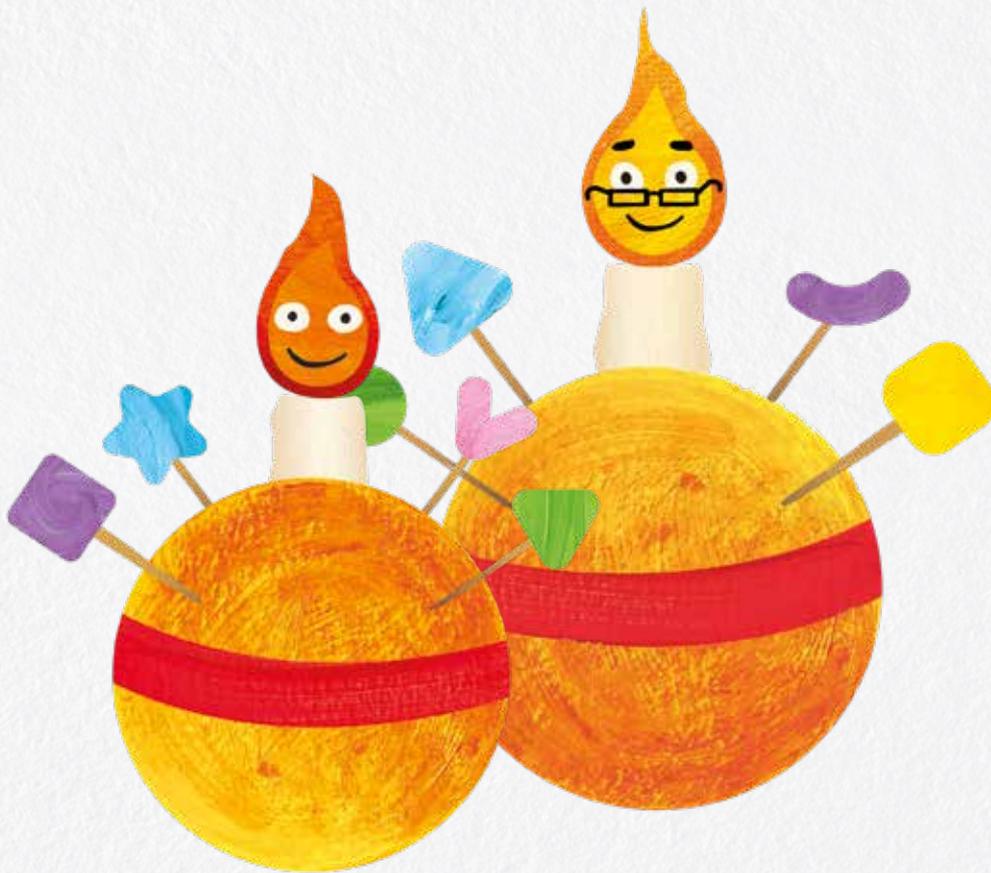


A Christingle/Nativity Rhyming Mash-up!



By Bob Hartman

christingle.org

Introduction to Christingle and The Children's Society

Christingle is a candle-lit, festive celebration that's perfect for bringing families and communities together. It was first invented by the Moravian church in the 1700s, but the celebration as we know it was introduced to the Church of England by The Children's Society in the 1960s.

The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during it. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. They have been part of our history for over 50 years and have helped raise millions of pounds to help this country's most vulnerable children. Each year we ask those who celebrate Christingle to hold a collection to support children and young people in some of the darkest situations imaginable.

The Children's Society

Founded in 1881 by Sunday School teacher Edward Rudolf, for the last 139 years The Children's Society has supported millions of this country's children and restored hope to their lives. We believe in building a society that works for every child, so that they are safe, happy and free to fulfil their incredible potential.

We run vital local services that provide vulnerable children across the country with the support, advice and guidance that they need, and we also campaign to make children's lives better and change the systems that are placing them in danger.

Together with this country's young people and our amazing supporters, we're improving life for children today and working to create a society where every child has hope for their future.

Introduction to this resource

This rhyme is designed for use in Christingle services that are combined with the nativity story, especially on Christmas Eve.

As the chorus is repeated throughout, you might wish to have this printed on a service sheet or projected on an overhead screen so all can join in.

About the author

Bob Hartman is one of the best-known Christian storytellers in the UK and author of numerous books including *The Lion Storyteller Bible*.



**Like ribbons wrapped around the world,
Jesus makes God's love shine bright.
And every sweet thing that God made
is saved from darkness by that Light.**

**As candle, ribbon, orange, fruit
come together, merge and mingle,
God desires to make us one –
that's the meaning of Christingle.**

An angel comes to Mary's house
and tells her she will bear God's son,
Unmarried, pregnant, she might well
have been cast out by everyone.

And so the angel speaks to Joseph,
Mary's worried fiancé.
And when he hears the truth, he helps her,
marries her and saves the day!

And just like Mary, there are children
on the edges, on their own,
looking for someone to help them
so they don't face life alone.

**Like ribbons wrapped around the world,
Jesus makes God's love shine bright.
And every sweet thing that God made
is saved from darkness by that Light.**

**As candle, ribbon, orange, fruit
come together, merge and mingle,
God desires to make us one –
that's the meaning of Christingle**

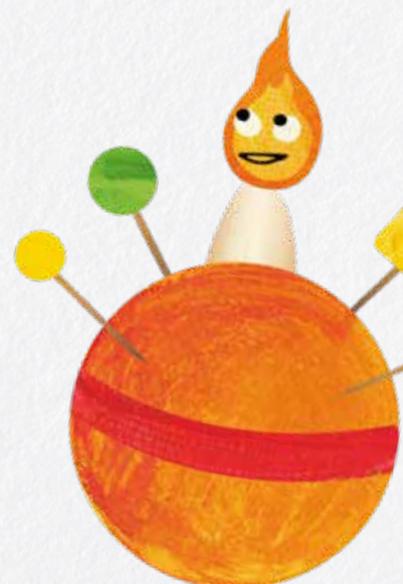
And when the time comes to be counted,
off they go to Bethlehem.

But there they find no place to rest
and no one there to welcome them.

Until, at last, a kindly person
offers them a place to stay
in the room where sheep and cattle
Huddle warm among the hay.

And just like Mary, just like Joseph,
many children are ignored,
overlooked, and looking for
acceptance and an open door.

**Like ribbons wrapped around the world,
Jesus makes God's love shine bright.
And every sweet thing that God made
is saved from darkness by that Light.**



**As candle, ribbon, orange, fruit,
come together, merge and mingle,
God desires to make us one –
that's the meaning of Christingle.**

An angel tells a flock of shepherds:
Go to Bethlehem, for there
a babe is born, he's Christ your saviour!
Then their praises fill the air.

So when the angels finish singing
off the shepherds go to see,
and welcome mother, father, child
into their small community.

And just like Jesus there are children,
living close to me and you,
yearning to be part of something,
waiting for that welcome, too.

**Like ribbons wrapped around the world,
Jesus makes God's love shine bright.
And every sweet thing that God made
is saved from darkness by that Light.**

**As candle, ribbon, orange, fruit
come together, merge and mingle,
God desires to make us one –
that's the meaning of Christingle.**

And then some wise men come to visit,
guided by a star above,
come to show the newborn king
that he is treasured, valued, loved.

At his feet, they lay their presents –
frankincense and myrrh and gold.
For God's love reaches to all nations
right around the whole wide world.

And just like Jesus, there are children
everywhere, in every land
who need to know that they are treasures
valued, loved, held in God's hand.

**Like ribbons wrapped around the world,
Jesus makes God's love shine bright.
And every sweet thing that God made
is saved from darkness by that Light**

**As candle, ribbon, orange, fruit
come together, merge and mingle,
God desires to make us one –
that's the meaning of Christingle.**

