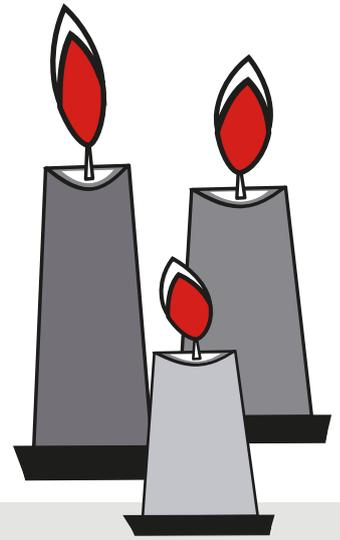


Prayers at Carols by Candlelight ✨



This selection of prayers for a carol service will help you remember those living in poverty this Christmas, and reflect on how you can help light the way for people living in darkness.

Opening words

Upon those living in deep darkness, a light has dawned. Jesus Christ was born to be a light for our world – dispelling darkness, shining hope. At Christmas, we gather to celebrate this light. Each flickering flame lighting the darkness tonight points to the light of the world, born in Bethlehem.

As we celebrate, we also call to mind those who are living with little hope, in fear or in darkness. In Jesus' name we seek to light the way for them. We pray for Christian Aid and everyone helping those who cannot be at home this Christmas.

Opening prayer

Holy One, lamp to our feet, glimmer of hope in our darkest night, flash of inspiration that wakes up our sleepy spirits; this Advent, light the way. Pour your love onto our paths as we journey, that we might find our way home to each other. In Christ's name we gather and we pray. Amen

Prayer of confession

God of light and love,

we have not always trusted wholly in your light.
Lord, forgive us.

We have not always shone light into darkness.
Lord, forgive us.

We have not always shared your light with others.
Lord, forgive us.

Rekindle the flames of our love for you.
Light the way to a closer walk with you.

Amen

Prayers of intercession

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'

Jesus, light of the world,
bring comfort to those in need of it,
be a beacon where hope is in short supply.

We pray for Angelique in the DRC,
far from the comfort of home.
Strengthen and heal her
and shine a light in her darkness.

The people who walked in darkness have seen
a great light; those who lived in a land of deep
darkness – on them light has shined.

Jesus, light of the world,
in a world where many walk in darkness,
fleeing conflict, violence or insecurity,
shine as a great light of hope.

We pray for refugees
in all corners of the world.
Accompany them on their journeys,
move us to show them a welcome.

Let your light shine before others.

Jesus, light of the world,
help us to reflect your light
and be a force for good in the darkness.
May we light the way for those in need.

Amen

Closing blessing

The light of God to make us unafraid.
The power of God to protect us.
The joy of God to heal us.
The grace of God to bless us and keep us
truthful.
Now and for evermore.

Amen

#LightTheWay

christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal

To order donation envelopes to hold a collection at your carol service, please call **0870 078 7788** or email **orders@christian-aid.org** quoting: F2377

