

Reader And may the God of light and compassion be with us.
The Father and Creator who brought light into the universe;
The Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World;
The Holy Spirit, who kindles the light of hope in our hearts.

And may the blessing of the God of light and compassion,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with us all this night and all nights.

All Amen

Hymn



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DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

Blue Christmas Service

Kindling Lights of Hope

A service for hope for those facing a difficult Christmas

Name of church

Date

(optional)



Opening Responses

Reader At the beginning of all things,
God created light.

God kindles suns and stars and galaxies –
to fill the wide darkness of space
with centres of light and life.

Reader 2 We light the first light on our Advent wreath
to remember the gift of light that God gave to the universe.

Reader God created the sun and the moon –
and each day,
just after the darkest hour before the dawn,
the sun rises
and brings light and warmth to the peoples of the earth.

Reader 2 We light the second light on our Advent wreath
to remember with thanks for the gift of light
that breaks anew over the horizon of the morning.

Reader God separated light from darkness –
and human beings found fire
to light and warm the dark and cold places.
From generation to generation,
people have kindled flames to ward off the darkness
and the fears it brings.

Reader 2 We light the third light on our Advent wreath
as countless ancestors have done
to bring light into the dark and cold places of their world.

Reader In grief – and loss – and fear –
our lives seem filled with darkness.

Reader 2 We light our fourth candle
as a sign of hope,
and that the God who created the light and the darkness
is in both of them with us –
holding firm the light which may just now be hidden from us.

Scripture Readings

Hymn

Short reflection/homily

Kindling Lights of Hope

Intercessions

Closing Responses

Reader Into the darkness of our gathering
we brought light –

All To speak to us of a light stronger than darkness.

Reader In the darkness of the days ahead:

**All Lord, remind us of your light –
and allow its warmth and brightness
to bring comfort to our souls.**

Reader We gathered as friends – as families – as strangers

**All We gathered in solidarity of sorrow
and prepare to part with the promise of compassionate remembering.
May we remember those who have shared this time with us
as they too journey through dark days,
trusting to your light and love.**