

## Lighting the Christ Candle

*Four tapers are lit.*

Today we light the Christ Candle  
recalling the time of Union on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1977, 41 years ago.

We light this candle for our heritage in the congregational tradition  
with its commitment to freedom and  
to the power of the priesthood for all believers.

***We will stand in that great tradition.***

We light this candle for our heritage in the Methodist tradition  
with its commitment to social justice and  
its enthusiasm in communicating the gospel.

***We will stand in that great tradition.***

We light this candle for our heritage in the Presbyterian tradition  
with its respect for scholarship  
and its deep understanding of the nature of the church.

***We will stand in that great tradition.***

We light this fourth candle to celebrate the other great traditions  
with which we are called into unity including  
the Baptists, Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Salvation Army  
in all their diversity and faith.

***We will stand in these great traditions too.***

With these four candles we light the Christ Candle  
symbol of the One who is the light of the whole world.

***In Christ we are one.***

***In Christ everything is made new.***

***Thanks be to God!***