

**Diocese of Canterbury**  
**Changed lives - changing lives**

**St. Laurence Church , Zoom Church Service**  
**Live from the Vicarage - 29.11.2020**  
**Advent Sunday**

**Hymn to reflect on as the music for the hymn**  
**is played**

1. Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'
  
2. Startled at the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
  
3. Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven.
  
4. So when next he comes with glory,  
wrapping all the earth in fear,  
may he then as our defender  
on the clouds of heaven appear.
  
5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit,  
while unending ages run.

**Welcome**

The Lord be with you  
And also with you

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
Who made heaven and earth.

O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified,  
pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and  
grant that we who use it may prepare our  
hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive  
from You abundant graces. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The wreath is sprinkled with water. Then follows the prayer which is said before the evening meal each night of the first week in Advent.

**FIRST WEEK** The following prayer should be repeated each day during the first week. After the prayer, the first purple candle is lit.

O Lord, stir up your might, we beg you, and come, that by your protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by your deliverance. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Collect for Purity**

Almighty God to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Penitence**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Prayer of Confession**

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

**Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all your sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard;

In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and

In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. **Amen.**

## First Reading read by Annabel Wyllie

### 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

### Responsorial Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,

from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power,  
and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts,  
look down from heaven, and see;  
take care of this vine,  
and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand,  
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Then we will no more withdraw from you;  
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## Gospel Reading read by Kate Lagden

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

### Mark 13:24-end

24 “But in those days, following that distress,

““the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

25 the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29

Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
[Praise be to you, O Christ](#)

### The Reflection

#### The Creed

Father, we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you,  
How we love you!

Jesus, we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you,  
How we love you!

Spirit, we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you,  
How we love you!

### The Prayers led by Sandra Dreyer

#### Let us pray

Lord as we come before you today on this First Sunday of Advent we ask you to prepare us for your coming, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith and we bring before you today the needs of the Church and the world

#### Lord prepare us for your coming – in the church

We pray for your church today, gathering all around the world in tiny churches and great

cathedrals to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite instead behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

We pray for your blessing on all those who preach, and teach the message of your salvation and we pray especially for our Bishops Justin and Rose, our Vicar Rodney and members of the PCC as they seek to do your will and guide us through our spiritual and worldly journeys.

Lord in your mercy [Hear our prayer](#)

#### Lord prepare us for you coming- in the world

Drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, restore our passion for what is good and right.

Establish your just and gentle rule in the USA, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, and other areas of the world where there is conflict and where peace has been powerless and violent people have had their day.

We ask you to govern the hearts and minds of those who lead our nations and for those in authority that they may act justly, with honesty and integrity according to your will.

Lord in your mercy [Hear our prayer](#)

#### Lord prepare us for your coming- in our own community

In our daily life, help us never to forget the supremacy of love. May love motivate our care for our different neighbourhoods in Hawkhurst - may love heal the social ills, which sometimes drag us into despair.

May love inspire our citizenship to rise beyond mediocrity, and may we always remember that we are members one of another and that we can never live to ourselves alone.

Lord in your mercy [Hear our prayer](#)

#### Lord prepare us for your coming- in those in need

On this day we pray for the homeless, the refugees the expelled and forgotten people everywhere and we remember especially today all those involved in the work of service and sacrifice as they seek to make a difference for the men and women they serve.

May they know that your guiding hand is with them in their daily work and tireless endeavours.

We ask you to help us all to use our gifts and our talents to the greater good of all, challenge us to drive away complacency and apathy when we know in our hearts that we can do more to help and sustain those in need.

We pray for others for whom this day will seem long and hard, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression, those seeking work, and for those for whom this day will be their last. We pray for those suffering from the Coronavirus and for those who care for them.

Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy [Hear our prayer](#)

Lord, prepare for your coming - those who have died

We pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them. We pray for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall *Freda Roger Fisher- Barham, Freda Ross-Thomson, Audrey Warren, Alan Vaughan, Niko Vaughan, Lynne Wood and Audrey Buss*. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world a light which no darkness can quench we remember before God those who have already gone before us and we light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope

Lord in your mercy [Hear our prayer](#)

You turn our darkness into light in your light shall we see light

As we gather through Zoom today Advent Lord come even nearer.

Come to rejuvenate our faith, come to fortify our social conscience, come to widen our eyes of wonder, so that when the Saviour comes he may steal into our hearts and find them ready.

Let us pray for a moment for our own personal petitions.

Eternal God,  
with joy we walk in the light of your face,  
and as our lives are secure in your truth,  
enable us to work for peace and justice everywhere.

Through Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father

[Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen](#)

Hymn to reflect on as the music for the hymn is played

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then

pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### Spiritual Communion

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen**

Jesus, Lamb of God: **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins: **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world: **give us your peace.**

*A moment of silence as we prepare to receive the Spiritual Communion*

### RECEIVING SPIRITUAL COMMUNION IN A TIME OF SEPARATION

Almighty and ever-loving God, we approach the sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ conscious of our need always to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to you which is our true worship

May we, who cannot now receive you sacramentally, embrace you more fully in our heart, mind and soul. Help us unite ourselves to you in spirit, so that we may be drawn closer to those from whom we are isolated in body. Through sharing your life given up in death for us all, may we grow together in love into a richer and more profound communion of life. **Amen.**

*A musical offering from The O'Neill family*

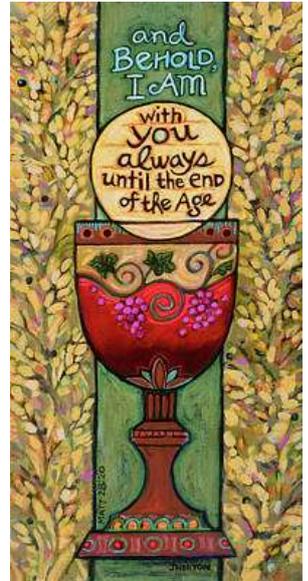
### Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious  
**God's mercy endures for ever.**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may

not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen**



### The Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. **Amen.**

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. **Amen.**

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim

cannot be done. **Amen.**

Freda Ross-Thomson, Audrey Warren, Alan Vaughan, Niko Vaughan, Lynne Wood and Audrey Buss.

**Hymn to reflect on as the hymn is played**

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing  
Deeply wailing  
Deeply wailing  
Shall the true Messiah see.

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory:  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
O come quickly!  
O come quickly!  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Particular prayers for the week ahead**

We pray for Elizabeth our Queen and all members of the royal family.

We pray for all the schools in Hawkhurst, particularly for our C of E Primary School, for the head teacher Jodi Hacker, the staff, the pupils, the volunteers, and the governors.

We pray for the PCC and its new members

We pray for the sick, and those unnamed living in the village and those known to the Lord alone and remember them in the silence of our hearts

We pray for those whose years' mind occurs  
at this time: