



**St. Laurence Church Hawkhurst, Zoom**  
**Church Service**  
**Live from the Vicarage - 8.11.2020**  
**The Third Sunday before Advent -**  
**Remembrance Sunday**

**Hymn to reflect on - read by Robin Crowther:**

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King!

2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Widely yet his mercy flows!

4 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

**Welcome**

The Lord be with you  
And also with you

**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 Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's  
people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King  
almighty God and Father we worship you; we  
give you thanks we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord  
God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the  
world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the  
right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For  
you alone are the Holy One you alone are the  
Lord you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen

**The Collect of the Day**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the  
day when wars shall cease and poverty and  
pain shall end, that earth may know the peace  
of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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 Brian Elliott**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8**

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**Gospel Reading read by Rachel Elliott**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

**Matthew 25:1-13**

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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 Peter Wyllie

On this Remembrance Sunday, let us bring before the God of peace our prayers for the world, the church and all His people. Merciful God, we pray for peace in our hearts and homes, In our nations and our world, The peace which is your will, The peace which we so badly need.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer

We remember today O Lord all those who have died in any kind of war throughout your world, soldiers who perished in the horror of battle, innocent people buried beneath the rubble from bomb attacks, men women and children brutally attacked and murdered in their villages. Today we remember especially those victims of the two world wars including those close to us, or to our parents and grandparents. We remember those who came home with terrible injuries, both physical and psychological and those whose loved ones never returned.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Remembering the conflicts of the past and the sacrifices which were made, we pray for a world where war is still a grim reality. Lord as we remember those who have lost their lives, help us to renew our fight against cruelty and injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and oppression. Still we cry out to you in the darkness of our divided world. Let not the hope of men and women perish, let not new clouds rain death upon the earth. Lord hear our prayer

for the multitudes in every country who do not want war and are ready to walk the path of peace. May their voice be heard and may they not lose heart.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of the nations at this time, asking you to pour out your spirit of reconciliation on them. Give them a longing to bring freedom from fear and freedom from want for all peoples. Give strength and courage to those who bear heavy responsibilities for the peace of the world. We pray also for the Christian Church, called to witness to your love in this generation. May Christians work with all men of goodwill to break down the barriers which divide people. May those who profess one faith respect those who sincerely hold another faith and build a community where there is harmony and understanding.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for all who face difficulties in their personal lives - concerns about the coronavirus, problems in their families, in their friendships, in their neighbourhoods or in their workplace. We pray especially for *Alfie Hayes and his family* at this time. Help them to be calm in times of anxiety and uncertainty and patient with those around them. Show us when we can help and give support to others around us .

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

On this day of remembrance our hearts and prayers go out to all who mourn the loss of those we have loved. We remember *Freda Ross-Thomson, Audrey Warren, Alan Vaughan, Niko Vaughan, Lynne Wood and Audrey Buss, whose years' minds occur at this time*. When we lose someone close we feel that part of us dies as well but part of them lives on in us, Give us strength and understanding to honour and cherish that gift. Help all those who are bereaved to find the same consolation that in knowledge of your love they may honour the past by looking to the future.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We now remember before God all those who have died and commend them to the light of Christ, which

eternally shines and brings hope. You turn our darkness into light in your light shall we see light

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

Finally, a prayer for ourselves that we may all put our confidence in you,  
O Lord you know we are often filled with fear and foreboding.

Give us courage and deepen our trust.  
You are a rock which nothing can shatter.  
On you we can place the whole weight of our lives

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

#### An Act of Remembrance led by Brian Fitzpatrick

The Exhortation is recited: The names of those from Hawkhurst who died in War and conflict are read out

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

*We will remember them.*

The Last Post is sounded.

The Two Minute Silence is observed.

Reveille is sounded.

The Kohima Epitaph is recited by Brian Fitzpatrick:

*When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*

#### Hymn to reflect on - read by Jill Fitzpatrick

1. O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;

Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

2. Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war  
As who had heard God's message from afar;  
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,  
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

3. Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;

Into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,  
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

4. Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.

5. Still stands His cross from that dread hour to this,

Like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

6. These were His servants, in His steps they trod,

Following through death the martyred Son of God:

Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise  
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

7. O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,  
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,

In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land  
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

#### 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

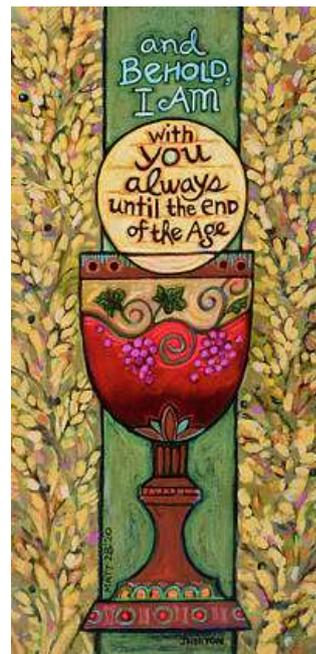
May we, who cannot now receive you sacramentally, embrace you more fully in our heart, mind and soul. Help us unite ourselves to you in spirit, so that we may be drawn closer to those from whom we are isolated in body. Through sharing your life given up in death for us all, may we grow together in love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

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.

**Hymn to reflect on - read by Jane Cooper**

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

**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 Hawkhurst 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:

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