

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist
Service. The Service is also re-
layed through Zoom
3.1.2021 - The Feast of the
Epiphany

Please ensure that you are all wearing your face masks. Thank you.

As we gather and prepare to join in worship together, music is played on the organ.

Hymn: *O little town of Bethlehem* (Carol 1)

Welcome: Today we will hear about some wise men who followed a star and came to visit Jesus. In this act of worship today, we will think more about how we follow God in our daily lives.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!

From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

**The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you**

We confess our sins

As we kneel with the Magi before the new-born Christ child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with Good News for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

My friends in Christ, Epiphany is good news!

The Light comes not to blind us but to save us.

Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.

In his name we declare: Our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Opening prayer: God of wonder, help us to have as much faith as the wise men who followed your star to find Jesus. Lead us down the right paths and help us to recognise Jesus in the people that we meet as we travel through life. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been

born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not

to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Hymn: *We three kings of Orient are (Carol 21)* - during which the wise men are carried to the crib

Gospel reflection

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!

Intercessions led by Anne Wheelhouse

God guides us and shows the right way to live our lives, and so as the family of God gathered here today, we pray to God together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may shine like the star, leading people to Jesus, and spread God’s message of justice, peace and love. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for all the leaders in the world: that they may be moved not to think of their own power and wealth but to rule wisely and do what is right for all their people. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for those people around the world who may be undertaking

long journeys, or who are in need of guidance: that they may find their way to a place of safety, welcome and peace. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may always be open to following God in our lives, in both our actions and our words. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for the sick and the suffering, especially those those affected by the Coronavirus... that they may know God's healing touch and love in their lives... Lord, in your mercy.. Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have died in the faith and fear of God, those recently departed *Mary Kilby, Nancy Bennett* and those whose years' minds occur at this month: *Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby...*

Lord, in your mercy.... Hear our prayer

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever

known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of gift-giving. Amen.

The Peace

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn

1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,

vainly with gifts would his favour
secure:
richer by far is the heart's adora-
tion,
dearer to God are the prayers of
the poor.

**5 Brightest and best of the sons of
the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us
thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorn-
ing,
guide where our infant Redeemer
is laid.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRA- MENT

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation: through your goodness
we have this bread to offer, which
earth has given and human hands
have made. It will become for us
the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.**

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation: through your goodness
we have this wine to offer , fruit of
the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of sal-
vation.
Blessed be God for ever.**

Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
**It is right to give him thanks and
praise**

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

We give thanks for all that God has
done for us.

God the Father created the heavens,
the earth and everything in them; and
created us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like
us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us
together as the people of God

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to wor-
ship this God who loves

We say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the
highest.**

Please sit/kneel

We praise you Father that before Je-
sus our Saviour suffered and died, he
gave us this holy meal to share and
told us to continue it until he comes
again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus
took bread. After giving thanks, he

broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We say:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one Body because we all share in one body.

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom, the
power and the glory, for ever and
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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one
body, because we all share in one
bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you, but only say the word, and I
shall be healed.**

**A Prayer for those joining us on
Zoom who are making their Spir-
itual Communion**

Lord Jesus, may we, who cannot now physically receive your sacrament, receive 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.

Post-communion Hymn *The First Nowell* (Carol 5)

Closing prayer: Generous God, we give thanks for all that you have given us. Open our hearts to follow you so that all that we do may be guided by your love. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Dismissal

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
Revealed in his glory
Worshipped by angels and the wise men:

Proclaimed among the nations;
Raised to the highest heavens:
Believed in throughout the world.
Blessed be God, our strength
and our salvation:
Now and for ever. Amen

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

Blessing

May God the Father keep you in all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light, now and always.

Hymn: As with gladness men of old (Carol 4)

We pray for those recently departed: Mary Kilby, Nancy Bennett

And for those whose years' minds occur at this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby

