

**DIOCESE OF CANTER-
BURY**

**changed lives - Chang-
ing lives**

**St. Laurence Parish
Church Hawkhurst, Parish
Eucharist Service. The
Service is also relayed
through Zoom
6.12.2020 - The Second
Sunday of Advent**

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.*

Welcome

Music throughout the
service (Although we may
not join in to sing, the
words of some verses of
hymns are printed here to
help you reflect on them as
you listen)

**1 Thy kingdom come! On
bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have
yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's
day.**

**2 But the slow watches of
the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.**

**3 And lo, already on the
hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye
prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near**

**4 The day in whose clear-
shining light
all wrong shall stand
revealed,
when justice shall be
throned in might,
and every hurt be healed**

**5 When knowledge, hand in
hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad:
the day of perfect
righteousness,**

the promised day of God.

In the Name of God: Father,
Son and the Holy Spirit .
Amen.

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

In silence let us call to mind our sins against God, others and ourselves.. We confess together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed

and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

**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 - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 read by Liz Hatcher

**Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.**

**A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!**

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

**Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.**

**Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

**Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!**

**Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,**

his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;

in his arms he gathers the lambs,

carrying them in his bosom,

and leading the ewes with care.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;

the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.

Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet;

justice and peace shall kiss.

Truth shall spring out of the earth,

and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;

our land shall yield its increase.

Justice shall walk before him,

and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the
gospel of Jesus Christ the
Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the
prophet:

Behold, I am sending my
messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in
the desert:

“Prepare the way of the
Lord,
make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared
in the desert

proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean
countryside

and all the inhabitants of
Jerusalem

were going out to him
and were being baptised by
him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their
sins.

John was clothed in
camel’s hair,
with a leather belt around
his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild
honey.

And this is what he
proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is
coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop
and loosen the thongs of
his sandals.

I have baptised you with
water;

he will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

We believe in one God, the
Father, the Almighty, maker
of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, eternally begotten
of the Father, God from

God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church - led by Alison Jones

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. We continue to pray for Bishop Justin and Rose..Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Grant that all who come into our church this Christmas time may be enabled to renew their relationship with you. Help us all to be glad of your presence, and to rejoice at the coming of Jesus. On this Sunday we offer you our thanks for all the gifts you have so freely showered upon us. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We thank you especially for health of mind and body, for home and family and friends, for books, art and music and for the beauty of the world around us. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Help us to use your gifts wisely, faithfully and generously, that we may show our gratitude in our deeds and not in words only, and glorify you in our lives as well as with our

lips. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for peace; give peace to the world; give peace to the victims of war, the refugees, the widowed and the orphans. Give peace to family and friends; to those who have quarrelled and need to be reconciled. Give peace in our own divided hearts. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of Peace for all people. Help us to be Peacemakers in our own homes, at our work or wherever we meet people, so that the peace and goodwill of Christmas can find a place in the hearts of all people. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for people in need: We pray for the homeless and the disadvantaged. Let your blessing be with all in the work they do to help the

hungry, homeless and disadvantaged people in Hawkhurst and give to all of us the determination to help where we can. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are lonely – lonely because they have lost a partner, lonely because no-one seems to care, those who are lonely because of handicap or illness. Let your presence be with those who are alone at this season of friendship and may we take your friendship to those whom we know will be alone this Christmas. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are ill. We pray for friends and family who are ill at this time, and remember them in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same today. Bless all

that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember friends and family who have died: *Gill South*, recently departed and all those whose years' mind occur this month: *Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, Hebert Fautly, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah May Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey May Fautly, Irene Nora Reed*

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Help us today 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.
Lord, You turn our
darkness into light and in
your light shall we see light**

**We keep a time of silence
as we offer our own
particular petitions**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ,
Amen.**

The Peace

Blessed _____ are _____ the
peacemakers: they shall be
called children of God. We
meet in the name of Christ
and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be
always with you

And also with you.

*Whilst the altar is being
prepared, music for the
following hymn is played on
the organ.*

1 On Jordan's bank the
Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is
nigh.

Awake and harken, for he
brings
glad tidings of the King of
kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life
from sin:

make straight the way for God
within,

and let us all our hearts
prepare

for Christ to come and enter
there.

3 We hail you as our Saviour,
Lord,

our refuge and our great
reward.

Without your grace we waste
away

like flowers that wither and
decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our
health restore,

and make us rise to fall no
more.

O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love
divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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 salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.

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

The Vicar leads us in the proper preface for today, after which the congregation joins in saying together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Vicar continues with the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer ending with the words:

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

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

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing ...

Amen.

Music for the following hymn is played on the organ as we prepare to go out into the

world to serve the Lord.

1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in
righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from
above.

2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made
anew,
his word is sure, his promise
true.

3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to
know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final
word.

4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our
darkest night.

5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

The organ is played as we end our time of worship together.

**THOSE RECENTLY
DEPARTED: Gill South**

**THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S
MIND OCCURS AT THIS
TIME:**

**Details for the Zoom
Service if you wish to
follow on Zoom (Please
note change of details)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82638193697?pwd=d3daS3gyTXBDMmRLMm9yeUt3REZUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 3819 3697

Passcode: 332531

Notices

There will be a **Confirmation Service** here on the 26th of January 2021 at 7pm. We have four candidates already. If you would like to be confirmed in the faith of the Church by Bishop Rose during this service, please speak to Fr. Rodney. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Rose on her first visit to our parish.

As many of you will have read in the press, charities and food banks have been finding things very difficult during the pandemic, with a far greater call on their services.

With this in mind, at St. Laurence we will be running 2 different projects to

help those in need.

1. The Sightsavers International Advent Giving Tree

will be at the back of the church as usual this advent from Sunday 29th November. If you are visiting the church and would like to make a donation please take an envelope from the table ,place your donation in it and tie it on the tree at the back of the church. Each envelope will be replaced by a star so that by Christmas the tree will be covered.

Sightsavers is a member of Vision 2020 - The Right to Sight. A collaboration of eye agencies committed to eradicating avoidable blindness by the end of 2020.

2.The Reverse Advent Calendars

In order to take part in this project please take a cardboard box and with effect from Friday 19th November place a non

perishable food item or an item for the hygiene bank in the box each day so that by Saturday 12th December you have 24 items to donate to the foodbank. We will then collect these boxes at St. Laurence on Sunday 13th and the items will be given to the local foodbank in time for distribution by Christmas. If you would like to you can do this project with a friend donating 12 items each. Please see below a list of items and suggestions for your box.

If you have any queries please ring Alison Jones on 01580 755705. Many thanks and please stay safe and well.

Christmas Services

After considering the latest guidance relating to the Covid 19 pandemic with the churchwardens, our final decisions about Christmas services are listed below. One of the services will be ticketed in order for seats to be allocated appropriately. The 8am will not require

tickets.

The three services that will be ticketed and which will require the socially distanced choir to sing are as follows:

Village Carol Service will be on youtube from 6pm on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm

Christmas morning - Friday 25th December, 8am. Holy Communion Family Eucharist at 10 am - to reserve a place please ring Alison Jones. Leave your name and number so she can call you back.

All Christmas services will be advertised in The Wealden Advertiser, on the Church website, in the three schools and on the ASL noticeboard. We will also advertise them on Facebook (St Laurence page, Hawkhurst Community page and Next Door Hawkhurst).

There is a box on the table in the church for any used postage stamps you may

have which will be going to the RNIB.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar:

Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Alison Jones
01580 755705

Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Mr. Richard O' Neill
01580 753817

