



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
ZOOM SERVICE CELEBRATED IN
CELTIC STYLE**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT - YEAR C**

28.11.2021



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 880 6739 1814
Passcode: 009675

Wearing your face masks is now optional. Thank you.

**The blessing of the Advent
Wreath**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come

upon us as we light the first candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The first candle is lit

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of
might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people
save,
and give them victory o'er the
grave. **Refrain**

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.

Make safe for us the heavenward
road
and bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning
Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.

Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the
lonely, the broken and breaking, the
tired and aching, who long for the
nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the
wishing and wondering, the puzzled
and pondering, who long for your
company, found at your feast.

Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure
and superior the never inferior who
long for the levelling found at your
feast

Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the
stirrers, the shakers, the kind
laughter makers who long for the
deeper joys found at your feast

Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from
mansion or campsite, from fears

and obsession, from tears and
depression, from untold excesses,
from treasured successes; to meet,
to eat, to be given a seat; be joined
to the vine; be offered new wine;
become like the least; be found at
the feast

Gather us in!

Confession

**Create a clean heart within me, O
God, so that it may become your
chosen shelter and the resting
place of the Holy Spirit. I take
the cross upon me, over the
tablet of my heart, and I beseech
the living God of the universe,
may the light of lights come to
my dark hard heart so that I may
live in the power of your love.**

Amen.

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

Collect

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**

Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.

For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father, unbegotten and without

beginning, the Lord of the universe, as we have been taught.

And His son Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father in a way that baffles description. He was made man, defeated death and received into heaven by the Father and given power over all names, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds.

He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life.

We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church led by Rachel and Brian Elliott

Almighty God, on this Advent Sunday, we give thanks for the first glimmers of the light which remind us of the coming of your Son Jesus Christ.

We believe that your light has the power to overcome all our darkness and pray that throughout the Season of Advent we may we share in the mystery of your coming into the world.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we dedicate to you all of the activities organised by our church during Advent and pray for all who will attend. Let it be that through prayer, praise and music they may make their own preparations for a Holy Christmas.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Today our hopes for our troubled world are for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic, an end to terrorism, a resolution to the migrant crisis and a positive outcome to Climate Change challenges. Come to your world as King of the Nations and before you rulers will stand in silence.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, although we are sometimes separated by language and culture from the people we live amongst, our hope for our community is to see your will done here on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for our neighbours, not only with words, but day by day, that through our actions we might demonstrate our Christian faith in a very real sense.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we raise before you the ill, the lonely and distressed and especially those without hope for the future. We pray for healing, wholeness and hope in their lives and we pray for ourselves. Help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we remember those who have died and pray for those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places.

Those recently departed:

Brian Fitzpatrick, Joan Doreen Thirkell,

Those whose anniversaries of death occur this month

Camillus Travers, Frederick Wood, Freda Ross-Thomson, Audrey Warren, Elsie Williams, Alan Vaughan, Joyce Fawcett, Paddy Turner, Niko Vaughan, John Mitham, Lynne Wood, Audrey Buss, Eddie Mole, Muriel Roberts, Elinor Michalski Leon Michalski

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, as we go into our Advent journey in faith, we ask you in hope to minister to our needs.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel and fill
the hearts of your faithful people and
kindle in them the fire of your love.

Merciful Father

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

So, in the presence of the Bread of
Life who refused food for himself in
order to nourish others, we deepen
our devotion by praying His words:

**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**

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, and earth and the
space between them is thin.

Distance may divide, but Christ's
promise unites those bounded by
time, those blessed by eternity.

Let heaven be glad;

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the
Church above and below is one.

Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and
all the Mary's, the saints from far
back and those who left us not long
ago. And only sight prevents us
from seeing them, one with us on
the other side.

Let heaven be glad

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present. The lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the Dove makes her resting place among us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!

The Invitation

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pleaded the case of the poor, he was always the guest.

Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people; welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, He is the host.

Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him, must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the time when God can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have, I offer now
to you.**

**Take and sanctify these gifts
for your honour, Lord.**

**Knowing that I love and serve
you
is enough reward.**

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have I offer now
to you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise**

It is indeed right for you made us,
and before you made us you made
the world we inhabit, and before the
world you made the eternal home in
which, through Christ we have a
place.

All that is spectacular, all that is
plain have their origin in you; all
that is lovely, all who are loving
point to you as their fulfilment. And
grateful as we are for the world we
know and the universe beyond our
ken, we particularly praise you,
whom eternity cannot contain, for
coming to earth and entering time
in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living,
for his compassion which changes
our hearts, for his clear speaking
which contradicts our harmless
generalities, for his disturbing
presence, his innocent suffering,
his fearless dying, his rising to life
breathing forgiveness, we praise
you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the
promise of the Holy Spirit, who

even yet, even now, confronts us
with your claims and attracts us to
your goodness. Therefore we gladly
join our voices to the song of the
Church on earth and in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

**And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:**

holy, holy, holy, holy.

**Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew,
Holy Spirit.**

**And we lift our voice before you
as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.**

And now, lest we believe that our
praise alone fulfils your purpose,
we fall silent and remember him
who came because words weren't
enough.

Setting our wisdom, our will, our
words aside, emptying our hearts
and bringing nothing in our hands,
we yearn for the healing, the
holding, the accepting, the forgiving
which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in
kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle
on this bread and wine and fill them
with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of
this passing world, until we conform
to the shape of Him whose food we
now share. **Amen.**

Among friends, gathered round a
table, Jesus took bread and broke

it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'.

Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.'

He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread.

He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup.

So take this bread and this wine.

In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love:

holy, holy, holy, holy.

A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above `all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Distribution of Communion

Please remain in your place. Communion will be brought to you.

Please hold out your open hands and the sacrament will be gently dropped into them by the Vicar in silence. This is the only way you are allowed to receive communion at present.

At this time of infectious disease, Communion is distributed IN ONE KIND ONLY. The Church of England, together with the whole Catholic Church, teaches that, in receiving in one kind, the entirety of the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood is received.

Hymn during Communion

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes, our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of heaven now incarnate
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
streams before him on the way,
as the Light of light descending
from the realms of endless day
comes, that pow'rs of hell may
vanish,
as the shadows pass away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,

“Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Post Communion Collect

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

The Peace

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and

citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Benediction

**On our heads and our homes
The blessing of God
In our coming and going
The Peace of God
In our life and believing
The Love of God
Be with us all
Today until the end of time.
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 ...

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Lo, he comes with clouds
descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation

to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what
rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

**And with all our brothers and
sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory.**

Amen. Alleluia Alleluia

Retiring Organ Voluntary

J.S. Bach ~ Nun, Komm, der

Heiden Heiland

(Saviour of the Nations Come)

It is the custom to remain seated
during the organ voluntary because
it is part of our act of worship.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Mr. Richard O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

NOTICES

Wednesday Eucharist at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.

Please do join us.

Christmas Tree Festival ~ 3 to 5 December

More Helpers required please!

More raffle prizes wanted please!

More donations of refreshments please!

~ list at the side of the church.

Saturday 4 December ~
concert by Cranbrook Town Band at 7.30pm. Tickets ~ £10 adults and £5 children (Family Ticket - £25 for 2 adults and 2 children). Ticket includes a mince pie and a complimentary drink. All proceeds go to St Laurence Church.

Cash bar on the night.

Order tickets from Ali Jones (01580 755705) or

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

Coffee After Church

If possible, please bring your own coffee cups/mugs to church on Sunday in order to save us recycling so many paper cups.

Babyccino Café breaks up on Thursday December 16 and resumes on Thursday January 6 2022.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – SIGHTSAVERS INTERNATIONAL

Please feel free to take an envelope, make a donation and hang it on this tree to help this worthy cause. Your envelope will be removed and replaced by a star so that by Christmas we hope to see a tree full of stars.

Summary of the work of Sightsavers International

Sightsavers believes nobody should be blind from avoidable causes, and we want everybody, no matter where they live, to be able to get eye treatment when they need it, regardless of who they are or where they live.

Globally, the number of people in need of eye care is spiralling. Unless eye health services improve, the number of people who are blind **could triple to 115 million** by 2050.

Sightsavers aims to address this by providing eye surgery and training eye care workers to provide vital treatment. Since

our work began, we've helped to carry out more than 10 million sight-saving eye operations.

Through community volunteers, we distribute medication to protect people from blinding diseases that can cause pain, stigma and lifelong impairment. We also work to **ensure health services are accessible** to people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

Christmas Services

**Sunday 19th December
at 6.00 p.m.~**

Village Carol Service

**Friday 24th December
at 5.30 p.m.~**

Christmas Eve Crib

Service (children come dressed as your favourite Nativity character)

**Saturday 25th
December ~ Christmas
Day**

**8.00 a.m. Holy
Communion BCP**

**10.00 a.m. Parish
Eucharist for Christmas
Day**

**Sunday 26th December
~ Boxing Day**

**8.00 a.m. Holy
Communion BCP**

**10.00 a.m. Parish
Eucharist for St.**

*Stephen, Deacon and First
Martyr of the Church*