

**DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**  
**Changed lives - Changing lives**

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St. Laurence Parish Church  
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist  
Service.

12. 12. 2021 - The Third Sunday  
of Advent

The Zoom details for this service  
are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88067391814?pwd=NVNzTnhlQ3F1cEJnVVBMUU5JKzICZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 6739 1814

Passcode: 009675

**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.

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**Welcome**

**Lighting of the third candle on**  
**the Advent Wreath**

**Vicar:** Lighting the lighter-  
coloured candle this week is a  
sign that what was dark is getting  
brighter, and joy is on its way. We  
can hardly wait to rejoice and sing  
at Christmas. We know that the  
wonder of the season tends to

push all our sadness and sorrow  
away, so we start to feel that  
special feeling already.

Father in heaven, help us hear  
again the voice of John the  
Baptist crying out in the desert.  
Help us make straight the  
pathways of our own lives so that  
those paths lead to eternal life  
with you. **Amen**

**Hymn**

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

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 Jesus Christ, who at your  
first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and  
stewards of your mysteries may  
likewise so prepare and make  
ready your way by turning the  
hearts of the disobedient to the  
wisdom of the just that at your  
second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable  
people in your sight; for you are

alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 - Phil 4:4-7** read by Anne Wheelhouse

Brothers and sisters:  
Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I shall say it again: rejoice!  
Your kindness should be known to all.  
The Lord is near.  
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.  
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm - Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.**

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

God indeed is my saviour;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;  
among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

## **Gospel**

### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

### **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to Luke

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The crowds asked John the  
Baptist,

“What should we do?”

He said to them in reply,

“Whoever has two cloaks  
should share with the person who  
has none.

And whoever has food should do  
likewise.”

Even tax collectors came to be  
baptised and they said to him,

“Teacher, what should we do?”

He answered them,

“Stop collecting more than what is  
prescribed.”

Soldiers also asked him,

“And what is it that we should do?”

He told them,

“Do not practice extortion,  
do not falsely accuse anyone,  
and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with  
expectation,  
and all were asking in their hearts  
whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying,  
“I am baptising you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the  
thongs of his sandals.

He will baptise you with the Holy  
Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in his hand  
to clear his threshing floor  
and to gather the wheat into his  
barn,

but the chaff he will burn with  
unquenchable fire.”

Exhorting them in many other  
ways,

he preached good news to the  
people.

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 the Vicar

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and 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. 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.

We pray for the church: For the Christian family who will be celebrating this festival in so many different ways, and for those who dare not celebrate openly. For Christians in countries where there is persecution.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

For Christians in our own country, with whom we will share our celebrations, for our Church family.

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.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

May your blessing be upon all who worship with us, give us grace to live as faithful members of your family, that we may learn each day afresh to love and serve you

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**

We know that without justice there can be no peace. Let peace come when all people are respected, regardless of race and religion. Let peace come when trading weapons of mass destruction is a crime. Let peace come when the earth's resources are used wisely for the common good. Let peace come when money is used to serve and not enslave the world. Let peace come through the transformation of our lives that we may do justice, love and kindness and walk humbly with our God.

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 homeless people and for refugees who have no country to call their own. Let your blessing be with those who work to help the homeless this Christmas, and give to all of us the determination to help where we can.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are lonely, those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, those who are 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 and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember today:

Those recently departed: Brian Fitzpatrick, Joan Thirkell

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 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

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

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.**

**Hymn**

Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He has purged our stains,  
He took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord and judge shall come  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.

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.**

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

**Though we are many, we are one body**

We sing together

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

**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**

**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.**

**Hymn**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here; come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place, he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;

be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

## **Post - Communion Prayers**

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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**

## **Notices**

### **Hymn**

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him

Who brings good news, good news

Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness

Our God reigns, our God reigns

### ***Chorus:***

*Our God reigns, our God reigns*

*Our God reigns, our God reigns*

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one

Shout for your King, your King,

See face to face the Lord restoring Zion

Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy

We are redeemed, redeemed

The Lord has saved and comforted His people

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God

Jesus is Lord, is Lord.

Before the nations He has bared His holy arm

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

## **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.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Retiring Organ Voluntary:** 'Pifa' from Handel's Messiah.

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

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## **NOTICES**

There will be a Deanery Confirmation Service here on the 22nd January 2022 at 2pm. We have five candidates. 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.

Wednesday Eucharist at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m. Please do join us.

Coffee After Church - If possible, please bring your own coffee cups/mugs to church on Sunday.

Babyccino Café breaks up on Thursday December 16. Restarts 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.

Next Sunday the preacher at the 10a.m. service is Dr Mary Tanner.

Christmas Tree Festival – we are delighted to report that the Christmas tree festival raised the grand total of £2,000. WELL DONE EVERYBODY!

The Raffle Winners are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize - John
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Pauline Thorn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Bron Cowdrey
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize – R. Vassar - Smith
- 5<sup>th</sup> prize – Annabel Wyllie

The winners of the Christmas Tree vote:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – WRAP
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - 1<sup>st</sup> Cranbrook Scouts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Hawkhurst C E Primary School

## Christmas Services

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at  
**6.30 p.m.~**  
*Village Carol Service*  
**(please note change of time from 6.00pm)**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December at  
**5.30 p.m.~**  
*Christmas Eve Crib Service* (children come dressed as your favourite Nativity character)

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
~ Christmas Day  
**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP**  
**10.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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**