

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist
Service.

5. 12. 2021 - The Second
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.*

Welcome

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of
darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from
heaven;

let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.

So when next he comes with
glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

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 - Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 read by Peter Wyllie

Brothers and sisters:

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more

in knowledge and every kind of perception,

to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

filled with the fruit of righteousness

that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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 Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,

when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,

and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region

of Ituraea and Trachonitis,

and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,

the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

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

Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill
shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be
made straight,

and the rough ways made
smooth,

and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.””

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 weekend and 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: 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 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.

Hymn

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!

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.

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.
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.

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

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;

to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and
dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

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**

Notices

Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release
us;

Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee
Day-spring from on high, appear.
Come, Thou promised Rod of
Jesse,
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to Him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to
earth!"

Come to earth to taste our
sadness,
He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.
Born thy people to deliver,

Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

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

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.

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***