



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER-
YEAR C
24.4.2022**



The Zoom details for this service are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4572440784?pwd=Yjgwc2pUd1ZPSkpyT3E4UVBsNS9HQT09>

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

Wearing masks is now optional.
Thank you.

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side,
Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was
shed, paschal victim, paschal
bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Saviour, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we
praise.
Alleluia!

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

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

Gospel - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I

see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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

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 Anne Wheelhouse

Everlasting God, as Jesus appeared in the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, draw us closer so that we, like Thomas, can examine the wounded hands and feet of Jesus in order to know and understand the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

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

Gracious God, look down with love upon our Church here in Hawkhurst

as day by day we struggle to be a body worthy of Jesus' name, an Easter People whose song is Alleluia. Be with the Clergy, Wardens and as we focus on spreading the Good News and as we give thanks for the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we raise before you our world, especially praying for peace in Ukraine, reconciliation and healing in all places of war, hatred and terrorism. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of the Risen Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for Queen Elizabeth; may her rule continue to be guided and influenced by the example set by your son who lives and reigns as King of Kings.

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

Loving God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all their neighbours as themselves. As his disciples we offer our prayers on behalf of this community where we are privileged to live and our friends and neighbours with whom we interact day by day.

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

Almighty God, we pray for all who are sick and for all who are in hospital that they may be aware that the Lord is with them in their troubles.

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

Loving God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm those who are bereaved, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along the journey of death and resurrection. We remember those whose years' mind occur this month:

Thomas William Barker, Olive Fitzpatrick, Brenda Bladon, Jimmy Dunlop, Edwin Manser, Roger Smith, Richard Hunt, Eileen Sheldon, Lydia Harttrup, Dick Howarth, Elijah Towner, Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, Anna Towner.

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

Father God, you have called us to follow you. As you hear our prayers make us faithful in responding to your call.

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)

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour, first-begotten from the dead,

Thou alone, our strong Defender, liftest up Thy people's head.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Jesus, true and living Bread!

Prince of Life, for us Thou livest, by Thy body souls are healed; Prince of Peace, Thy peace Thou givest, by Thy blood is pardon sealed.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Word of God in flesh revealed.

Paschal Lamb! Thine offering finished once for all when Thou wast slain, in its fullness undiminished shall forevermore remain.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

Great High Priest of our profession, through the oil Thou ent'redst in; by Thy mighty intercession grace and mercy Thou dost win. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Only sacrifice for sin.

Life-imparting heav'nly Manna, stricken Rock, with streaming side, heav'n and earth with loud hosanna worship Thee, the Lamb who died. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

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 come up for Communion.

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.

Communion Hymn

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Post Communion Collect

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death

of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **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.

The Service is suspended for the APCM .

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

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ...

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that
give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in
deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what
he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving
and song to him be outpoured all
ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven
restored, for grace of salvation, O
praise ye the Lord!

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.

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.

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

Children's Society Collection boxes – the sum of £200.46 was collected in these boxes and a cheque has been sent off.

Babyccino Cake Sale – thank you for all your donations of cakes and preserves. The sale raised £297.25 for the **Ukraine appeal**.

A message from Father Rodney -

Father Rodney would like to thank everybody for their very kind and generous Easter gift. He appreciates it very much.

