

[H] ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE

The First Sunday before Advent
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus
Christ, King of the Universe
20.11.2022

The Sidesmen today are Norma
Cox and Diana Ringer



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters with one voice
tell all the world he is your choice.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Oh magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient
days.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

They with a faith forever new
followed the King, and round him
drew
thousands of faithful servants true.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the way disciples followed then.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great
name,
with the same faith his word
proclaim.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole church at last be one.
Alleluia, Alleluia, 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

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Gospel Reading read by Clive Dewing

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the

Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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 Peter Wyllie

Almighty God, your son Jesus is King of Kings, Lord of Lords and the redeemer of the human race; look down upon us, your earthly subjects, as we humbly lay ourselves and our intercessions before you. We are Jesus' people, and we wish to be more closely united with him in all we do and say. Search the heart of each one of us as we freely consecrate ourselves today to your his Sacred Majesty.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for your world where many indeed have never known about you and your son; but where sadly many, have rejected you. Let Jesus be King, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken him, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned him altogether. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father God, we thank for the life of our departed Queen, Elizabeth and for all that she did to serve her people. Now we pray for our new King, Charles III. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us We pray too for other earthly leaders, kings, queens and rulers; encourage them all to serve their people following Jesus' example constantly seeking the common good in all that they do. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Lord of the past and the future: we thank you for all the good things that have happened during the past Church Year. We thank you for your people in this parish and the fellowship and joy of our worship together as a

community and for all those who have worked so hard to run and maintain our church here in Hawkhurst.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for all those who suffer in any way. We pray that they will know the presence of your Son alongside them and the power of Christ the King within them bringing peace and healing for them and help and encouragement for those caring for them in their hour of need. We pray for Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, Doris Ringer, John Tanner.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, when we have to part from those whom we loved it hurts; so when the loss we have sustained turns to anger and when we find words of comfort hard to hear, surround us with your love, turning our grief to hope. We pray for those who have died: for the newly presented servants of God: Phillip Stiller, Barbara Cackett. We pray for those whose anniversaries of

death fall at this time: 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, Brian Fitzpatrick
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Almighty, we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives. At the end of this church year we commend to you all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year and ask that you continue to use us and our prayers to make a difference in their lives.

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

Lord God, do not abandon us in our desolation. Keep us safe in the midst of trouble, and complete your purpose for us through your steadfast love and faithfulness.

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

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil

in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy.

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

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)

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.

Hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning
eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail

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

Updated C of E guidance states that Holy Communion should now be offered in both kinds, unless there are clear and objective reasons not to do so. It has been decided to offer Holy Communion in both kinds and to advise those who do not wish to receive the wine to indicate this by raising their hand when offered it.

**The chalice bearers today are:
Stephen Ringer and Rachael Ringer**

Communion Hymn

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!

Post Communion Collect

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; 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 our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing ...

Notices

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall,
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him you martyrs of our God,
who witnessed to his call;
exalt the one whose path you trod,
and crown him Lord of all.

Descendants of his chosen race
you ransomed from the Fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love cannot forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your offering at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.

Let every people, nation, tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

O that in heaven with that great throng,
we at his feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

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.**

We listen to the Organ Voluntary
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NOTICES

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER –

Concert by The Bodiam Concert Band at 7.30pm in St Laurence Church. Tickets available from Ali Jones or Kate Lagden or on the door. £12 to include a complimentary drink. Under 12's - £6

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER -

Concert by Cranbrook Symphony Orchestra at 7.30pm in St Laurence Church. All proceeds to Hawkhurst Food Bank. Advance ticket prices- adults £10, students (under 18) £5. Available from Liz Hatcher or on the door.

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER -

Light up a Life Service of Dedication at 6.00pm in St Laurence Church in aid of Hospice in the Weald.

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER~ is the 40th anniversary of Fr. Rodney's ordination to the priesthood. Please come to give thanks and celebrate with him at the 10.00am. service. The preacher is The Bishop of Southwark; The Right Revd.

Christopher Chessum.

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER –

6.30pm Village Carol Service with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

CHRISTMAS EVE – SAT 24 DECEMBER – 4.00pm. CRIB

SERVICE (children come dressed as your favourite Nativity character)

11.30pm. **MIDNIGHT MASS** with carols and the blessing of the Crib.

CHRISTMAS DAY – SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

8.00am. Holy Communion BCP

10.00am. Parish Communion with carols for Christmas Day.

NEW ADDRESS – for Mrs Anne Maugham can be obtained from Fr. Rodney, Ali or Liz. Mrs Maugham would appreciate receiving a card or a short note sent to her new address.

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AT BOWLES LODGE ~ 10.00 am.

Please do join us.

REVERSE ADVENT

CALENDAR~ please help the Hawkhurst Food Bank by collecting a food item through each day of Advent. This will help to boost supplies. This food will be collected from the church gate after the

10.00am.service on Dec 18th. Thank you.

BABYCCINO CAFÉ breaks up on Thursday December 15th and resumes on Thursday January 5th 2023.

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.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
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Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705
Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

