



DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing
lives

St. Laurence Parish
Church, Hawkhurst, Par-
ish Eucharist 27.11.2022 -
The First Sunday of Ad-
vent

The Sidespeople today are: Sa-
rah and Charles Vernede

The Zoom Details are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in dark-
ness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy peo-
ple,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

***Christ be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark-
ness.***

***Christ, be our light! Shine in
your church gathered today.***

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to
save us.

Make us your living voice. **Re-
frain**

Longing for food, many are hun-
gry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for
others,
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are
cold.

Make us your building, sheltering
others,
walls made of living stone. **Re-
frain**

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to be-
long.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Re-
frain**

In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

**The Lighting of the First Ad-
vent Candle - The Candle of
Hope**

**The Patriarchs, Abraham, the
Old Testament Ancestors of
Jesus**

May your hearts be filled with
hope as you hear the promises
God made to bless all the peoples
on earth through Abraham, the fa-
ther of our faith.

Thanks be to God

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle to remember the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the ancestors of our faith.

Genesis Chapter 12

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors: to you be praise and glory for ever. You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

(The first candle is lit)

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus we give thanks for our Father Abraham who by faith obeyed your call and became the father of many nations. Give us

faith to listen to your voice that our hearts may be filled with the hope of our Lord Jesus. **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

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**

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 - read by Sandra Dreyer

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter sixty four beginning at the first verse.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O

LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free!
from our fears and sins release
us,

Christ in whom our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation,
born salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring:

By your own eternal Spirit
rule in our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.

Gospel Reading

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 Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when

the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

The Reflection given by Mary Tanner

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 Robin Crowther

Eternal God, on this the first Sunday of a new Church year we sing with joy in anticipation for the coming of God to earth at Christmas. Help us to sow peace around us, live like Jesus and pave the way for the King as he comes to reign as the Prince of Peace, giving people a glimpse of his kingdom.

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

Gracious God, hear us today in our words of prayer, in each hymn and melody we sing, in our

silent thoughts and pleas and may our worship today connect us with heaven and unite our hearts with the sound of eternity. We thank you for the music all around us, the sounds of life; the lapping of the waves, the roar of the wind, the sound of our neighbours talking, the purring of a cat and the persisting calls of the birds.

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

Loving God, we pray for your church throughout the world, for those people persecuted for their faith, whose songs are freedom songs. We pray for their safety and ask you to give their praise the strength to convince and convert, the power to ward off war and divisions and the love to bring peace. We especially pray for the peace of Jerusalem

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

Creator God drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world where there is conflict and where peace has been powerless and violent people hold sway.

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

We pray for all those who lead our nations of the world and for those in authority, We pray for King Charles and all members of the Royal family. We pray for all members of Parliament that they may always work for peace and for the good of their people.

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

Father God, in our daily life, help us never to forget the supremacy of love. May love motivate the way we live our lives in our neighbourhoods throughout our parish helping to heal those situations which so often drag us into despair.

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

Faithful God, we pray for all who sing a sad song today: the grieving, the lonely, the lost and the bereaved. We pray especially for those who have lost their voice and feel silenced or oppressed. May we bring light into dark places, restore hope and vision to all who struggle, and bring well-being and comfort to all those who suffer. 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**

Everlasting God, give us ears to hear and minds to understand the message of immortality for the children of your kingdom so that we may look forward with patience and confidence to that time when we will join you in the peace of eternity. We especially pray for any we know who recently died and are now on that journey to you.

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**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember friends and family who have died: Phillip Stiller, Barbara Cackett. recently departed and all those whose years' mind 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, Elixir Michalski Leon Michalski, Brian Fitzpatrick

Holy God during this season of Advent, as we move towards the festivities of Christmas, we pray that peace will flow from all of our actions and interactions this week.

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.

Offertory 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.

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.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be ac-
ceptable to God, the almighty Fa-
ther.

**May the Lord accept the sacri-
fice at your hands for the
praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of
all his Church.**

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**

Gracious God, in the beginning
you called your creation good,
and flooded it with beauty and

bounty, glory and grace. In the days of Noah you drowned your creation to wash away sin and draw your own sons and daughters to yourself. Through your covenant with Israel your promises flowed to all nations and in Jesus Christ you drew us out of our waywardness into the relentless flood of your mercy. His death was the drowning of our sin, his resurrection and ascension bless all nations to stream toward you in glory. And so we praise you with angels and archangels all the company of heaven as we join their unending hymn.

**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.**

Peacemaking God, in Christ you made an ending of the life of spears and swords and came to us with ploughshares and pruning hooks, the tools of planting and cultivating that we might be fed. In him you showed us how to study war no more, how to lay down our swords and shields and how to feast with the prince of peace.

As you come to us to be our very food and drink, send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread and gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

God of prophets and promises, as you turn swords into ploughshares, take our sin and reshape us for salvation. Take our foolishness and bend us toward faith. Take our hostility and refashion us for heaven in the crucible of your love. Stir your church with wakening hope, that soon and very soon we are going to see our king. Quicken our spirits with trust in that day when we who have

been blessed with such hope will gather around your throne with saints of every age, in praise and thanksgiving to you, one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **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.

The Fraction

We break this Bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one Bread

The Agnus Dei

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.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
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.

The Distribution of Communion

Updated C of E guidance states that Holy Communion should be offered in both kinds. We 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:
Mike Appelbe and Peggy Stone

Communion Hymn

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,

in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him
burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to
bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his
grace,
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of
Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,
with your beloved name.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

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.**

**Father almighty we offer our-
selves to you as a living sacri-
fice 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**

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness

shine upon you, scatter the dark-
ness from before your path, and
make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory; and the
blessing ... **Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

**Thy kingdom come! On bended
knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned
to see
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the
night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye prophet
souls,
proclaim the day is near**

**The day in whose clear-shining
light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned in
might,
and every hurt be healed**

**When knowledge, hand in hand
with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad:
the day of perfect righteous-
ness,
the promised day of God.**

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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We listen to the organ Voluntary

WHAT HAS ADVENT GOT TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS.

It was December, and another Christmas was at our throats. That was the dim view of all things Yule taken by the humorist P.G. Wodehouse, and it is a sentiment most of us can readily understand. To avoid the frenzy which induces that feeling, we need to grasp what the Grinch perceived with wonder from the summit of Mt. Crumpit: That Christmas “came without ribbons; it came

without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags.”

And the very best way to arrive at this insight is to keep a holy Advent. The twin peaks of the liturgical year are Easter and Christmas, and both of these celebrations are preceded by a period of preparation. The purple of penance must come before the gold of glory revealed in Christ’s birth and Resurrection, and this is where the cultural and secular observance of Christmas can get in the way of a good Advent. On the radio and at the shopping centres, Christmas has already been at our throats for some time, but today is just the first Sunday of Advent. And on December 26th when the Church is only beginning to celebrate the liturgical season of Christmas, evergreen trees will begin to pile up on the curb and Father Christmas will disappear until next year.

Let us just say STOP, REFLECT AND REMEMBER! We have four weeks in which to ponder the profound mystery of Christ coming to us for our salvation. In the past he did come to suffer and die for us. **He came in history.** In the present he does come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. **He comes in mystery.** And in the future he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. **He will come in majesty.** All three of these “advents” are

part of this beautiful season of the liturgy, and if we attend to the Church's rhythm of prayer, penance and preparation, then when Christmas Eve arrives, we will not be exhausted; we will be elated.

So, how to do this? I humbly suggest a number of aids which can support us in our Advent journey as we move towards the celebration of Christmastide.

1) Get an Advent wreath if possible and light the candles on it at home each night while praying the Collect from the Eucharist for that Sunday.

2) Pray Morning and Evening Prayer - the app is available to download. Join Compline at 6pm every Wednesday on Zoom.

3) Come to the Eucharist as often as possible during Advent on Wednesdays at 10am. as we join the folk at Bowles Lodge. This weekday Eucharist has a quiet, meditative quality that steals into our hearts and minds, and Advent is deeply enriched by the Eucharist.

4) Encourage your family and friends to think of things other than packages, boxes or bags. Make a donation to Charities like Sight Savers International or our local Food Bank. Write a letter to someone you love to tell them so. Volunteer to serve someone in need.

It is December, but another Christmas need not be at our

throats. It can be in our hearts with joy beyond all telling if we prepare with a worthy Advent.

Fr. Rodney

NOTICES

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)

MIDNIGHT MASS - 11.30pm 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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