

**St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst in the Diocese of
Canterbury**

**The Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)
11 December 2022**

**A Service to give thanks on
the 40th Anniversary of the
Ordination to the Sacred
Priesthood of
Fr. Rodney, Vicar.**



**The Sidesmen today are
Sarah and Charles Vernede.**

**We welcome Bishop
Christopher Chessun, the
Lord Bishop of Southwark,
who is our preacher this
morning.**

**A very warm welcome to all
who have joined us from
near and far for this special
celebration**

**The Zoom details of this service
are:**

**Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa**

As we gather and prepare to join
in worship, music is played on the
organ.

Welcome

Entrance Hymn

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
Of the clouds of heaven appear

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,

While unending ages run. **Amen.**

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Third Candle - The Candle of Love - John The Baptist

May your hearts be filled with God's love towards all people as you consider the life of sacrifice and encouragement of John the Baptist.

Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we the lit the Candles of Hope and Peace.

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we light the Candle of Love and remember John the Baptist.

Matthew Chapter 3

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the

truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

(A server now lights the pink candle)

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

Seek the Lord while he may be found,

Call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways

And the unrighteous their thoughts.

Turn back to the Lord, who will have mercy;

To our God who will richly pardon.

A time of silence and self-examination is kept.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil

in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from your sins, and restore you 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 read by Rachel Elliott

A reading from the letter of James, Chapter five, beginning at verse seven.

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You too must be patient.

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.

Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.

Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,

the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Bless'd are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their heart is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens,
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King.

He to the lowly soul
Doth still Himself impart,
And for His dwelling and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight, and all
flesh shall see the salvation of
God.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew Chapter
eleven beginning at the second
verse

Glory to Christ our Lord

When John the Baptist heard in
prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with
this question, "Are you the one

who is to come, or should we look
for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go
and tell John what you hear and
see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead
are raised, and the poor have the
good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes
no offence at me."

As they were going off, Jesus
began to speak to the crowds
about John, "What did you go out
to the desert to see? A reed
swayed by the wind? Then what
did you go out to see? Someone
dressed in fine clothing? Those
who wear fine clothing are in royal
palaces. Then why did you go
out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell
you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is
written: Behold, I am sending my
messenger ahead of you; he will
prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you, among those
born of women there has been
none greater than John the
Baptist; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than
he."

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

Sermon: by Bishop
Christopher Chessun, The
Lord Bishop of Southwark.

The Nicene Creed

**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 Anne Wheelhouse

Everlasting God, as we continue
prepare for Christmas, help us to
find time in our busy lives for time
to be quiet where we can, through
prayer and reflection, appreciate
the wonder of your love. As we
revisit the story of Jesus' birth
through our Advent worship
deepen our joy, invigorate our
prayers and our praise and help it
to challenge the way that we live
our lives

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our
Prayer**

Mighty God, your servant John
the Baptist called people to
change the way they lived and to
prepare themselves for the
coming of your son. Raise up we

pray, prophetic voices in our own time. Enable us to discern the truth which draws us closer to you.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Give us the courage to reject the voice of the evil one tempting us to fulfil our selfish desires. We pray for all those who teach, preach and minister in your name. May they be as fearless in proclaiming the truth as your servant John and may we be ready to adapt and change in response to their leadership.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God may we like Mary worship in such a way that our joy in you grows through the recognition of the countless ways we have benefitted from your blessings throughout our lives and the goodness and mercy that you show to us despite our shortcomings. Help us to pass on our faith to the next generation of our families that they too might praise with the same joy that Mary did.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for the nations of the world especially where pride interferes with power to produce tyranny, where the

divide between rich and poor is beyond imagination and where people have been hungry for so long that many have never experienced a satisfying and sustaining meal.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we continue to pray for King Charles and for every member of the Royal family. Surround them with your love, your goodness and your peace.

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

Father God we pray for those whose children cannot take part in Christmas celebrations because of the expense; those who put themselves seriously into debt attempting to meet expectations; those who may have to use food banks for a Christmas meal. Help us to do all that we can through our prayers and through our giving to the local and international charities that are helping the less fortunate.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God we raise before you the sick and the suffering, that you would show the strength of your arm and scatter everything which prevents them from enjoying health and wholeness in body mind and spirit. We pray for:

Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, John Tanner, Doris Ringer. We give thanks for the healing of Ivor Hatcher.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, we rejoice for those who now experience the joy of heaven according to the promises you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to us his descendants, forever. We especially pray for the recently departed, newly presented servants of God: **John Heady.**

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:

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, Nancy Bennett, Charles Newcombe. Charles Newcombe, Gerald Larkin, Ignace van Kan.

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

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. May what we sing and speak with our lips become strong belief in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts become our way of life, throughout this Advent and in the years to come.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

In silence we bring to Almighty God our own particular prayers

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Offertory 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**

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 acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice 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 to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him

to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because within the royal priesthood of your Church you ordain ministers to proclaim the word of God, to care for your people and to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

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.

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.

The Distribution of Communion

The Chalice bearers today are: Andrea Higgins and Alison Parsons

Updated C of E guidance states that Holy Communion should now 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.

Communion Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us
Mary's Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for you we sing
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray
Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one with us
Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
live my life for you
Son of God
All your commands I know are true

Your many gifts will make me
new
Into my life your power breaks
through
Living Lord

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for he is
gracious

His 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

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 of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be with you and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord. In the name of Christ.

Amen

Hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds
descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints
attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold
him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what
rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

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.**

Retiring Organ Voluntary -

Please remain seated for the organ voluntary

As the choir, the servers and the clergy leave the sanctuary, please join in to sing

‘Amen Siakudumisa’ is a hymn by Stephen Cuthbert Molefe, a South African composer and choir master. The original words are in Xhosa, and it is sung in both Xhosa and English.

Xhosa lyrics:

Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)

Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)

Amen, Bawo; Amen Bawo;

Amen siyakudumisa. (masithi)

English lyrics:

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)

Amen, amen

Amen, amen

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)

NOTICES

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~ food will be collected from the church gate after the **10.00am.** service on Dec 18th. Thank you.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – SIGHTSAVERS

INTERNATIONAL ~ Please 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.

USED STAMP RECYCLING – there is a box for used stamps on the table at the side of the church. (RNLI)

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877