

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH,
HAWKHURST**

**MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
FOLLOWED BY THE
BLESSING OF THE CRIB**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
24TH DECEMBER 2022**

**THE ZOOM DETAILS FOR THIS
SERVICE ARE:**

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa



**The Sidesmen are the
Churchwardens.**

THE GATHERING.

CAROL: 19

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

*(The congregation stands to join in
the second verse).*

In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE GREETING.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

When God wanted to show himself
as he is in a way we could
understand, he became human,
one of us, appearing with the face
of a child. He showed himself in all
our fragility, as if saying 'Do you
see now that I am near to you.
That I am with you not to
overpower you but with the face of
peace and love and trust?' Let us
welcome with joy the Lord who
comes to live among us and to join
us on the journey of life. Now we
can become more like God.

(Silence is kept)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION.

**Almighty God, to whom all
hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no
secrets are hidden:**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE.

When the Lord comes, he will bring
to light the things now hidden in
darkness, and will disclose the

purpose of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

We Sing:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

We sing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father,
Glory to God

COLLECT OF THE DAY.

Let us pray:

(Silence is kept)

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please sit

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD – READ
BY STEPHEN RINGER**

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will

establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

**CAROL: 6
AWAY IN A MANGER**

THE GOSPEL READING.

Luke 2:1-14

We sing: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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

Sing: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to

whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to Christ our Lord.
Please sit.

SERMON

We stand to say

THE 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, he became 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – READ BY FR. RODNEY

Please sit/kneel.

On the first day of Christmas Jesus Christ, God's gift to us on that first Christmas, was born to Mary and Joseph in the poorest of circumstances. We pray for the poor of the world many of whom live in conditions far worse than the stable where Jesus began his earthly life.

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

On the second day of Christmas the Heavenly choir of Angels appeared to the shepherds and sang to the Glory of God; so we give thanks for our church music and those who play and sing God's praises, not only with Carols, at this joyful time, but week by week in our worship together in Christian churches throughout the world.

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

On the third day of Christmas The Shepherds returned home to spread the Good News; we pray for evangelists, preacher's and teachers who tell out the Gospel story of God's amazing gift to all humankind.

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

On the fourth day of Christmas the Three Kings arrived in Jerusalem; we raise before God the Holy city of Jerusalem praying that it may be place of true peace, and an international centre of worship for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike.

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

On the fifth day of Christmas the Three Kings sought news of Jesus from King Herod; we pray for rulers of the nations in our troubled world where so many leaders abuse their positions and their power.

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

On the sixth day of Christmas, Herod ordered the "Slaughter of the Innocents"; we pray for all those who continue to be slaughtered in acts of genocide, racial cleansing and similar atrocities. We continue to pray for the sick and suffering known to us: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, John Tanner

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

On the seventh day of Christmas, The Kings found Jesus and presented their gifts – we give

thanks for the season of giving and receiving and for the joy and happiness that it generates.

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

On the eight day of Christmas, Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord and for Him to be circumcised; we pray for all newborn children, for those being baptised and receiving their Christian names.

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

On the ninth day of Christmas, Simeon rejoiced that he had not died before he had seen the Lord's Christ; we pray for those who are coming to the end of their lives and especially for those who have seen Jesus in their lives and lived that life accordingly.

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

On the tenth day of Christmas, Anna, who had devoted her whole life to prayer and fasting, recognised Jesus as The Redeemer; so we pray for those who within religious communities across the world fast and pray for the world and for each of us.. In the same spirit we now pray for those who are ill or in need.

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

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Holy family left the shelter of the stable – we pray for all those involved in hospitality and tourism and for all people who, like the Innkeeper in Bethlehem, make their homes a place of welcome and love.

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

On the Twelfth day of Christmas, the Holy Family fled to Egypt – we pray for all those fleeing their homes in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Iraq and those European countries which are welcoming them and giving safe refuge.

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

We pray for the recently departed, the newly presented servant of God: John Heady.

We pray for those whose years' mind 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, Charles Newcomb, Ignace van Kan, Gerald Larkin.

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

Lord God you sent your angels

from glory to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. We have heard his story, the story of Your own Son. May he fill us with joy to bring this good news to others today and through the twelve days of Christmas and into the New Year beyond.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT.

We stand to share:

THE PEACE.

The Priest introduces the peace:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace,

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The presentation of the Gifts on behalf of the people by members of the congregation

A collection will be taken during the singing of the following carol

**OFFERTORY CAROL: 18
ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF**

GLORY

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 our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, 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.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer Preface and all sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

Sit/kneel

*The Priest continues, recalling and
remembering with us the Last
Supper and says*

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

*At the End of the next part of the
Eucharistic Prayer we respond*

Amen

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

With Jesus in our midst we are
bold to pray:

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD.

*The Priest breaks the consecrated
bread, saying:*

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.**

We sing:

**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.

The Distribution of Communion

Updated C of E guidance states that Holy Communion should now be offered in both kinds, therefore we advise those who do not wish to receive the wine to indicate this by raising their hand when offered it.

For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

WE SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION.

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 Chalice Bearers are Sandra Dreyer and Alison Jones

If you are a communicant member of another church you are welcome to share with us in the Blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. If you are not, but would like to come up for a Blessing please carry this service booklet with you so that the Priest will know.

The celebrant delivers the consecrated bread to each communicant, saying:

The body of Christ.

The chalice bearer then delivers the cup to each communicant, saying:

The blood of Christ

*The communicant may reply each time **Amen** and then receives. Each time we reply as an act of faith.*

CAROL: 13

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

BLESSING OF THE CRIB.

The priest and the servers move in procession to the Crib. A prayer of blessing is said. The crib is then sprinkled with holy water. They then return to their places.

Please remain seated.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living

sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Priest pronounces a Blessing.
We respond: Amen

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

CAROL: 10
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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.

**FAMILY COMMUNION
FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
10.00 AM**

Please do say a prayer at the Crib for peace and reconciliation in our world.

A Very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all from Fr Rodney, Sandra and all the members of the PCC
