

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
HAWKHURST
FAMILY COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS MORNING
25TH DECEMBER 2022**

THE ZOOM DETAILS FOR THIS SERVICE ARE:

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

**The sidemen for today are:
Gwen Brown and Anne
Wheelhouse**



**The Gladness of Christ is
HOPE
The Spirit of Christ is
PEACE
The Heart of Christ is
LOVE**

**CAROL No 10:
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

WE GATHER

**The Lord be with you
And also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

I bring 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.

For the birth of Jesus your Son, our Saviour, cradled in a manger at Bethlehem:

We thank you, heavenly Father.

For the love and gentle care of Mary, his mother, most blessed of all women:

We thank you, heavenly Father.

For the goodwill of this Christmas season, in our hearts and in our homes, bringing joy and gladness to us all:

We thank you, heavenly Father.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Father, we have sinned and strayed from the truth. May your Son's birth restore our self respect and give us grace to persevere:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, you came to lead us to the loving mercy of God:

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, fill us this Christmastide, with your consolation and strength:

Lord, have mercy.

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

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

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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 (SPECIAL PRAYER) OF THE DAY

We pray together

Lord God, we praise you for creating us, and still more for restoring us in Christ. Your Son shared our weakness,

Glory to God in the highest

**may we share his goodness
and his glory, for he lives and
reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

*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.**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD
Please sit

THE GOSPEL READING

*John 1:1-14
Read by Claire Roberts*

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in
the beginning with God. All
things came into being through

him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ

CAROL No: 6

AWAY IN A MANGER

ADDRESS

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

We stand to say:

THE CREED

Do you believe and trust in God
the Father,
who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his
Son Jesus Christ, who
redeemed mankind?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his
Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of
God?
I believe and trust in him.

**This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one
God.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Please Sit/kneel)

Prayers led by Peter Wyllie

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 eighth 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 new-born 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**

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand and the Priest introduces the peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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.

We sing:

CAROL NO 5:

THE FIRST NOWELL

During which a collection will be made

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS.

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

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him
Give my heart

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 him thanks
and praise**

Why do we give thanks and
praise at this table?

**We give thanks for all that
God has done for us.**

God the Father created the
heavens, the earth and
everything in them; and created
us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human
like us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to
gather us together as the people
of God

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to
worship this God who loves

**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.**

(Please Sit/kneel)

We praise you Father that
before Jesus our Saviour
suffered and died, he gave us
this holy meal to share and told
us to continue it until he comes
again.

**Why do we eat bread together
at this table?**

On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread. After giving
thanks, he broke it, and gave it
to his disciples saying, “Take,
eat. This is my body, given for
you. Do this in remembrance of
me.”

**Why do we drink from the cup
together at this table?**

In the same way after supper
Jesus took the cup, saying. “This
cup is God’s new covenant
sealed with my blood, poured
out for you for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this in remembrance of
me”

**What do we remember at this
table?**

We remember the Father’s
gracious love for us, Christ’s
death and resurrection for us,
and the Spirit’s tender care for
us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Lord, we bring our lives and all we have. We give ourselves to you, as you gave yourself for us.

**Help us to be open to you.
Help us to receive your Spirit,
The Spirit of Freedom,
The Spirit of Peace,
The Spirit of Love.**

As we share your Spirit, so help us to share the life of Jesus. Accept this offering of praise, which we make with all our hearts.

Blessing and honour and glory and power, are yours for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Silence is kept)
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, 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.

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.

*The Chalice Bearers are:
Stephen Ringer and Rachael Ringer*

Carol:

LITTLE JESUS, SWEETLY SLEEP,
Please remain seated/kneeling

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together in thanksgiving to God

**Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world.
May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive**

**and reigns with you now and
for ever. Amen**

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BLESSING

NOTICES

**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 No 12:
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

**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 sit to listen to the Organ Voluntary

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**

**With the Christmas season
upon us, here are some
Christmas quotes from
notable figures:**

*A thousand times in history a
baby has become a king, but
only once in history did a King
become a baby. Anon*

*Then the Grinch thought of
something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store.
What if
Christmas...perhaps...means a
little bit more!
Dr Seuss, How the Grinch
Stole Christmas*

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

G.K.Chesterton, Brave New Family

Yet as I read the birth stories about Jesus I cannot help but conclude that though the world may be tilted toward the rich and powerful, God is tilted toward the underdog.

Philip Yancey

