

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY  
Changed lives - Changing  
lives

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**St. Laurence Parish Church,**  
**Hawkhurst –**  
**Parish Eucharist 4.12.2022 -**  
**The Second Sunday of**  
**Advent**

The Sidespeople today are: **Kate**  
**Lagden and Diana Ringer**

The Zoom Details are:  
Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCa

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**Hymn**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from  
sin:

make straight the way for God  
within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste  
away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health  
restore,

and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent sets thy people free  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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

**The Lighting of the Second**  
**Advent Candle - The Candle of**  
**Peace**

**The prophets who foretold the**  
**birth of Jesus**

May your hearts be filled with  
peace as you hear the words of  
the prophet Isaiah who told of one  
who would be born the Prince of  
Peace.

**Thanks be to God**

Last Sunday we lit the First  
Candle of Hope in our Advent  
Wreath, and celebrated the  
patriarchs. We light it again as we  
place our hope in Jesus the  
blessing of God for all nations.

**Isaiah Chapter 9**

*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.*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

(The second candle is lit)

Let us pray:

Lord God you spoke through your prophets and promised a kingdom of peace. We welcome you Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our hearts long for the establishment of your kingdom of justice and righteousness. **Amen.**

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

### **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**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, 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.**

### **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 Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptising you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but

the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

### 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.

### The Reflection

The Creed - sung together

**Father, We adore You. Lay our lives before You. How we love You.**

**Jesus, We adore You. Lay our lives before You. How we love You.**

**Spirit, We adore You. Lay our lives before You. How we love You.**

### The Prayers of the Church - led by Claire Roberts

Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah. Inspire our Chaplains, who are stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, so that when Christ comes again to be our judge we may stand with confidence before his glory.

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

Faithful God we pray for your blessing to be upon this congregation, upon the Church throughout the world and upon our parish. May your presence be seen vividly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might never be perfect examples of your love in action.

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

Creator God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy

space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child is King. Clear the trouble spots of our world from hatred and despair and sow seeds of joy and peace so that shoots of hope may spring forth and all people, whatever their creed, race, colour or gender may live together in harmony with one another.

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

Father God you enfold those on the margins of society with love and you experienced through Jesus what it was like to be excluded. Your son befriended the despised like Zacchaeus; the shunned prostitute; the untouchable lepers and all those who the establishment labelled as sinners.

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

We ask you to help those at the edges of our communities and give them hope through the patience and encouragement of all of us who claim to be your people.

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

Merciful God, we remember all whose illness stems from a mental health issue, who often suffer in silence because of

stigma and who reach out for help that is often not there because of stretched services.

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

Help us to continue to serve the needs of those who suffer. We pray for 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.**

Loving God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

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

We pray for those whose years mind fall 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  
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 have  
sung and spoken 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.**

We bring to the Lord our own  
petitions....

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

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

### **The Peace**

We stand to sing  
**Shalom, Shalom,  
May peace be with you,  
Throughout your days;  
In all that you do,  
May peace be with you,  
Shalom, Shalom. (Repeat)**

### **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**

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.**

**We sing together**

**All that I am, all that I do,  
All that I'll ever have, I offer  
now to you.**

**All that I dream, all that I pray,  
All that I'll ever make, I give to  
you today.**

**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.**

**Take and sanctify these gifts  
For your honour, Lord.  
Knowing that I love and serve  
you  
Is enough reward.**

**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

*We 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.**

*Please sit or 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:

*We sing:*

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **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 now be offered in both kinds. It has been decided 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:  
**Kent Harries and Peter Hodges**

### Communion Hymn

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,

Live in me from day to day,  
By his love and pow'r controlling  
All I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through his pow'r

May the peace of God, my Father,  
Rule my life in ev'rything,  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea.  
Him exalting, self abasing:  
This is victory

May we run the race before us,  
Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus

As we onward go.

### **Post - Communion Prayers**

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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**

### **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 ... **Amen.**

### **Notices**

#### **Hymn**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no

more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head.

His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:

the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

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

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## **NOTICES**

### **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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 Lord Bishop of Southwark; The Rt. Revd. Christopher Chessun.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**BABYCCINO CAFÉ** breaks up on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> and resumes on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> 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  
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