

[H] ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE
The Second Sunday of Epiphany
15.1.2023

**The Sidesmen today are Kate
Lagden and Judy Darkin**



The Zoom details for this service are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4572440784?pwd=Yjgwc2pUd1ZPSkpyT3E4UVBsNS9HQ109>

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UC

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth
spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.

There no cloud nor passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-
day,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from
labour,

O how glorious and resplendent,
fragile body, shalt thou be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of health and strong, and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure
that shall last eternally.

Now with gladness, now with
courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid;
and in everlasting glory
thou with brightness be arrayed.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and aching, who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering, who long for your company, found at your feast.

Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure and superior the never inferior who long for the levelling found at your feast

Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers who long for the deeper joys found at your feast

Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes; to meet, to eat, to be given a seat; be joined to the vine; be offered new wine; become like the least; be found at the feast

Gather us in!

Confession

Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become your

chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit. I take the cross upon me, over the tablet of my heart, and I beseech the living God of the universe, may the light of lights come to my dark hard heart so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.

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**

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading - Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 **read by Charles Vernede**

The LORD said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and

Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the pow'r of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church

to live for him, the Lamb who died.
Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Gospel Reading

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

To those who accepted him,
he gave power to become children of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

From the Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you O Lord

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptising with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me,

'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

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

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, the Lord of the universe, as we have been taught. And His son Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father in a way that baffles description. He was made man, defeated death and received into heaven by the Father and given power over all names, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds.

He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life.

We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church led by Robin Crowther

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Washed clean by the waters of baptism, let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word, proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner, hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word ...
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, baptising with the Spirit and with fire, strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith ...
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent, teach your Church dependence on your grace ...
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who suffer or are ignored ...
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit ...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, Doris Ringer, Jan Edwards, Geraldine Nurney
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life ...
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father makes us and all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory.

We pray for those who have died: for those whose years mind occur at this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda

Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Leila Wood
Lord of truth,
hear our prayer.

We bring to the Lord our own particular prayers and petitions.
Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself in order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion by praying His words:

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

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

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;

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.

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, and earth and the
space between them is thin.
Distance may divide, but Christ's
promise unites those bounded by
time, those blessed by eternity.
Let heaven be glad;
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the
Church above and below is one.
Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and
all the Mary's, the saints from far
back and those who left us not long
ago. And only sight prevents us
from seeing them, one with us on the
other side.

Let heaven be glad
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the
God who made them is present. The
lamb, glorious on the throne, sits
beside us; the Spirit of God, the
Dove makes her resting place among
us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers
and spreads a table for our
satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Blessing and honour and glory and
power be to our God for ever and
ever.

Amen!

The Invitation

He was always the guest. In the
homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha
and Mary, Joanna and Susanna. At
the meal tables of the wealthy where
he pleaded the case of the poor, he
was always the guest. Upsetting
polite company, befriending isolated
people; welcoming the stranger, he
was always the guest. But here, at

this table, He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him, must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when God can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying ‘This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.’

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said ‘This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.’

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce

of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

**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.**

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise**

It is indeed right for you made us, and before you made us you made the world we inhabit, and before the world you made the eternal home in which, through Christ we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and

the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:
holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew,
Holy Spirit.
And we lift our voice before you as
a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough. Setting our wisdom, our

will, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share.
Amen.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'. Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.' He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:
holy, holy, holy, holy.

A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

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 it has been decided to offer Holy Communion in both kinds and 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:
Sandra Dreyer and Felicity Robinson

Communion Hymn

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse
each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Post Communion Collect

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

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

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Benediction

On our heads and our homes

The blessing of God

In our coming and going

The Peace of God

In our life and believing

The Love of God

Be with us all

Today until the end of time.

Amen.

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. and the blessing ...

Notices

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the
Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.

Unresting, unshaking, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou
rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high
soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great
and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of
all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves
on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught
changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father
of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling
their sight;
all praise we would render, O help
us to see
'tis only the splendour of light
hideth thee.

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 listen to the Organ Voluntary

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Alison Jones
01580 755705
Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

NOTICES

**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AT
BOWLES LODGE 10.00 am.**

Please do join us.

SAVE USED STAMPS for RNLI.
Collection box on table at back of
church.