



ST LAURENCE CHURCH

All Age Family Communion  
5th February 2023

Christingle (Candlemas)



*Occasionally during the **All Age Family** services photographs are taken which will appear on our church website. If you do not wish your child to be included in these photographs please make your wishes known to Ali, Liz, Felicity or Sandra.*

*There are toilet facilities at the back of the church*

*The Sidespeople today are: **Judy Elliott and Diana Ringer***

The Zoom details are :

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

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

### Opening Hymn

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light.

He binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.

***Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.***

Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light.  
the dead were wakened by his  
call.

walk, walk in the light.

***Walk .....***

He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light.  
to save the lost like you and me.  
walk, walk in the light.

***Walk .....***

We know his death was not the  
end,

walk, walk in the light.

He gave his Spirit to be our friend.  
walk, walk in the light.

***Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.***

By Jesus' love our wounds are  
healed,

walk, walk in the light.

the Father's kindness is revealed.  
walk, walk in the light.

***Walk .....***

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.  
His light will shine for all to see.

walk, walk in the light.

**Walk .....**

*Please sit:*

### **Greeting and Welcome**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to our Christingle Service today. We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world. In this service we hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

The Christingle speaks of the world in which we live, and we pray today for all Christians, that we may be mirrors of the light of Christ in the world; for those who do not know the light of Christ in their lives; for those who bear responsibility in our world for government, education, commerce, and communication; for all children and for young people who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing; for those who are in special need, the sick and anxious, the lonely and fearful, and for those who are bereaved.

### **Opening Prayer**

Father of light, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world, that all may believe

in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

### **Reading - Luke 2:22-40 read by Jane Cooper**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,

Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

### Reflection

### The Baptism of Felicity Garforth-Bles and Alice Martha Paye

*We gather in a circle around the  
Church in preparation for the  
Lighting of the Christingles*

### Hymn

Jesus bids us shine, with a clear,  
pure light,  
Like a little candle burning in the  
night;  
In this world of darkness we must  
shine,  
You in your small corner, and I in  
mine.

Jesus bids us shine, first of all for  
Him;  
Well He sees and knows it if our  
light is dim;  
He looks down from heaven,  
sees us shine,  
You in your small corner, and I in  
mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all  
around

Many kinds of darkness in this world abound -  
Sin, and want, and sorrow: we must shine,  
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, as we work for Him,  
Bringing those that wander from the paths of sin;  
He will ever help us, if we shine,  
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

**Prayers led by Anne Wheelhouse**

On this feast of Candlemas, we pray for children growing up in families struggling to make ends meet.

Lord Jesus, it hurts to think about this. Part of us would rather not. We'd rather look away. Help us to reach out, and come alongside them. We thank you for the Christingle and the ribbon that represents your love wrapping itself around the world.

We ask you to wrap your loving arms around each child in need today.

Be close to all the children we see on television screens in war torn areas who are frightened and do not have enough of the basic things they need.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of The Children's Society. Bless their projects to help children and their families. Help them to continue to challenge us to care, give and speak up on behalf of others. Bless every area of their work. Uphold their staff in your love and may every child who comes into contact with them continue to receive the love and practical care they need.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of The Children's Society to raise awareness about those in difficult situations, and explain the effects new policies might have on those children who don't have a voice. Help those with power to hear what we are saying to put children and their childhoods above power, popularity or money.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and for our local community. We pray for our schools, and those in special need of our prayers. Lord, we can't love like you do in our own strength.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are sick and suffering: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash,

Colin White, David Winston,  
Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida  
Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter,  
John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Doris  
Ringer, Eileen Hatcher

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We remember all those recently  
departed: Patrick John Roberts;  
and we pray for those whose  
anniversaries of death fall at this  
time: William Crouch, Michael  
French, Charles Bladon, Thomas  
Fitzpatrick, Jane Coleman,  
Michael Buss, Albert Collins,  
Victor Botha, Joan Maskell, Brian  
Kingcome, Martin Chubb, Desna  
Harries, Christobel Van der  
Hoeven, Leslie Corfield, Marjorie  
Addyman, Norman Sheldon,  
Christian Solari, Jean King.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

We bring to the Lord our own  
particular prayers

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

### **We Share God's Peace**

Shalom, Shalom,  
May peace be with you,  
Throughout your days;  
In all that you do,  
May peace be with you,  
Shalom, Shalom.  
(Repeat)

*We return to our seats*

### **Hymn**

*A collection in aid of the  
**Children Society** will be made  
during the singing of this hymn*

Round orange, round orange you  
serve as a sign

That God made the round world  
with purpose divine

***The power of love is always  
the same:***

***Be glad, give thanks, rejoice in  
God's name.***

Ripe fruits freely given, this truth  
you recall,

When God hands out presents  
they're meant for all.

***The power .....***

Red ribbon, you tell of the  
bloodshed and pain

Which led to forgiveness when  
Jesus was slain.

***The power .....***

Bright candle, the message you  
carry is clear,

The true light from God found a  
home with us here.

***The power .....***

Christingle, Christingle, shine out  
in the night

To kindle among us that  
marvellous light.

***The power .....***

### **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/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.**

### **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.

### **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**

**We share in Holy 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.*

### **Communion Hymn**

Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
the sun has come up, the night is behind.

Go down in the city, into the street,  
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
open the door, let Jesus return.***

***Take seeds of his spirit, let the fruit grow,  
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.***

Go through the park, on into the town;  
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.

The light of the world is risen again;  
the people of darkness are needing our friend.

***So light up .....***

Open your eyes, look into the sky,  
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.

The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
but Jesus is living, and his Spirit is near.

***So light up .....***

### **Notices**

### **Final Prayer and Blessing**

May the light that is Jesus lead you always.

May your heart be more for the people around you than yourself.  
May your resolve be to reach out in love and come alongside those in need with God's generous compassion.

And may your life be a witness of the blessing that comes with giving,

for the sake of all God's children, and for the glory of God's name.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn**

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.***

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.***

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

The light that shines is the light of love,

Lights the darkness from above.

It shines on me and it shines on you,

And shows what the power of love can do.

I'm gonna shine my light both far and near,

I'm gonna shine my light both bright and clear.

Where there's a dark corner in this land

I'm gonna let my little light shine.

***This little light of mine...***

On Monday he gave me the gift  
of love,  
Tuesday peace came from  
above.  
On Wednesday he told me to  
have more faith,  
On Thursday he gave me a little  
more grace.  
Friday he told me just to watch  
and pray,  
Saturday he told me just what to  
say.  
On Sunday he gave me the  
power divine  
To let my little light shine.  
***This little light of mine...***

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**

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A very **BIG** thank you to Tesco  
Hawkhurst for their very  
generous donation of the  
oranges for this Christingle  
service.

## **NOTICES**

**Please note** that we now have  
the facility to accept donations by  
Credit Card/Apple Pay etc.  
The machine will be on the table  
opposite the pew leaflets after  
the service.

**St Laurence 100 Club** - please  
speak to Alison Parsons if you  
would like to become a member  
of this club. Members may  
purchase one or more shares at  
the annual sum of £10 in  
advance. This entitles your  
number/s to be entered into a  
monthly draw with all funds  
raised donated to St Laurence,  
Hawkhurst PCC (registered  
charity 1134439).

The prizes for each month will  
be:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £20

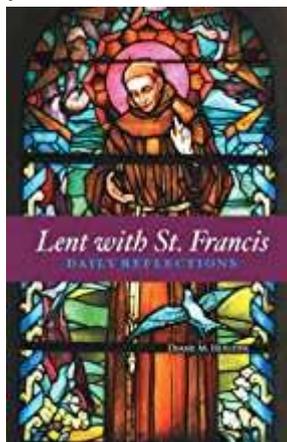
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £10

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £5

**World Day of Prayer** (previously  
Women's World Day of Prayer)  
service will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March, at 7pm at the Hawkhurst  
Baptist Church. The service  
focuses on Taiwan and members  
of all the churches in Hawkhurst  
will participate in the  
service. Everyone welcome to  
attend. For more details speak  
to Sandra 754459

**This Lent** we will using the book  
below. If you would like to be part

of our parish Lenten Course,  
please do purchase the book for  
our journey through Lent.  
Thanks.



**Lent with St Francis – Daily  
Reflections  
PAPERBACK £10.03**

**KINDLE EDITION £2.24**

### 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