

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist
Service.

5.3.2023 - The Second Sunday
of Lent, Year A

Please Note: The Zoom details
for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sides people today are:
Kate Lagden and Diana Ringer

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

Welcome

Hymn

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's
story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us cour-
age
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have
bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us cour-
age
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring mad-
ness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish glad-
ness,
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us cour-
age

lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal
Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us cour-
age

serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God to whom all
hearts are open all desires
known and from whom no se-
crets are hid 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**

Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

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

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

**First Reading - Genesis12:1-4
read by Anne Wheelhouse**

The LORD said to Abram:
"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.

"I will make of you a great nation,

and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's
mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour,
there is healing in his blood.

But we make God's love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John
Glory to Christ our Lord

Now there was a Pharisee, a man
named Nicodemus who was a
member of the Jewish ruling
council. He came to Jesus at night
and said, "Rabbi, we know that
you are a teacher who has come
from God. For no one could perform
the signs you are doing if
God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell
you, no one can see the kingdom
of God unless they are born
again."

"How can someone be born when
they are old?" Nicodemus asked.
"Surely they cannot enter a second
time into their mother's womb
to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell
you, no one can enter the kingdom
of God unless they are born
of water and the Spirit. Flesh
gives birth to flesh, but the
Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. You
should not be surprised at my
saying, 'You must be born again.'
The wind blows wherever it
pleases. You hear its sound, but
you cannot tell where it comes
from or where it is going. So it is
with everyone born of the Spirit."

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

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, was 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.

**The Prayers of the Church - led
by Jane Cooper**

Holy God, as we continue our Lenten journey make us mindful of our potential for good and for growth, as we strive for holiness in your sight despite our human failing and imperfections. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we recognise that the work of helping people through life can leave church leaders vulnerable to spiritual attack. We thank you for our church leaders, Bishops Justin and Rose and Rodney our Vicar and pray that they will hear encouragement, and that they will always respond in love and forgiveness when difficulties arise. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for all in authority that they may never be tempted to abuse or misuse their power. Help and guide them to show wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace and so bring peace and prosperity to every corner of the world. We particularly pray for the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as it enters its second year – Lord, please bring peace. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray for our relationships with family, friends and neighbours and we particularly pray that we never lead them into any kind of temptation. Help them to see us as a new creation, still the person that God created, but now also as an active part of God's earthly family. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, our hearts ache when we hear about the pain and suffering that some of our loved ones have to endure especially when illness has come about through the temptations of the world. Come close and bring comfort and healing to all those who we now name before you. We pray for: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Geraldine Nurney. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, you know when our hearts are broken by bereavement. You know the pain of loss because you suffered through the death of your only son. In the midst of ongoing sorrow, help us to rejoice in the comfort of the hope, encouragement, and comfort that your promise of eternal

life brings to all who believe in Jesus. We pray for:

Those recently departed: Norma Fogarty, Mandy Jones

And all those whose years' mind occur this month:

Spencer Charles Edwards, John Else, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Louise Bembridge, William Bennett, Joseph William Ringer, Kitty Weguelin, William David Potter, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe

Everlasting God, may we show and share our love and trust for you wholeheartedly, today, as we go back out into the world and through every day of our Lenten journey.

Merciful Father

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

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,

Saviour divine.

Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you,

and of your own do we give you.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

Gracious God, you long to gather your children as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. You have made the descendants of Abraham as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the desert; and in your grace and mercy you have made us, too, children of your blessed, unbreakable covenant. In Jesus you have come among us in grace and truth; in his death we showed the depth of our departure from your ways; in his resurrection you demonstrate that nothing is impossible with you. And so as we gather at your altar like angels at your throne, joining the archangels as they continually sing anthems of heavenly praise, we say:

**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.

God, our salvation, you have made us a people for your own possession, and we become yours as you become ours in the sharing of the meal of bread and cup. Send down your Holy Spirit, that these tokens of earthly sustenance and heavenly joy may be

for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread and gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,

‘Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me’

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

‘Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God our stronghold, as we walk this Lenten journey through the wilderness with you, make this eternal food enough to feed us through times of uncertainty and fear. Soften in us the impulse of greed, that as we share the bread of life, we may continue to understand the word “enough.” Shape our hearts to long for that day when you gather your children to yourself, and inspire us to make all who are created in your image our companions at this and other

altars, until the day when all our hungers are satisfied and every friendship is fulfilled in the company of your Holy Trinity, through whom and with whom and in whom, all honour and glory are yours, now and forever. **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 the one bread

The Agnus Dei

We say 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.

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.

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

If you do not wish to receive the wine please indicate this by raising your hand when offered it.

The chalice bearers today are: Kent Harries and Peter Hodges

Communion Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

God's mercy endures for ever. Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil

thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing..... Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Hymn

In the cross of Christ I glory
towering over wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round his head sublime.
When earth's sorrows overtake
me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me -
Christ shall bring me peace and
joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and life upon my way,
from the cross his radiance
streaming
adds more lustre to the day.
Joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure

by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there beyond all measure
through the grace of Christ who
died.

At the cross I see defeated
all that makes my heart afraid.
Now is Christ in triumph seated;
every evil foe dismayed.
Satan chained and hell frustrated,
death destroyed and guilt removed;
here my life is new-created
and the power of God is proved.

Once for all my sins are taken
in the sacrifice complete.
Never can my peace be shaken,
at the place where Christ I meet.
In the cross of Christ I glory
towering over wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round his head sublime.

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.**

Retiring Organ Voluntary

NOTICES

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m. Please do join us.

LOVES AND FISHES SUNDAY every 3rd Sunday monthly. The next collection date will be 19th March. All contribution of non perishables will be collected and donated to the Hawkhurst Food Bank.

ELECTORAL ROLL - if you would like to be registered on the Electoral Roll of St Laurence or wish to know more about being a member, please speak to Stephen Ringer. Names can be added up to the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Sunday 23 April. Application forms are available on the table at the back of the church.

EASTER LILIES – if you would like to purchase an Easter lily in remembrance of a loved one, please place cash or a cheque in an envelope and clearly print the person's name on the front of the envelope. Please give the envelopes to the Churchwardens (Ali or Liz) or post them in the wall safe inside the church where they will be collected.

A minimum donation of £4.50 per lily is requested. Cash is preferred. If you wish to pay by cheque it should be payable to **St Laurence Flower Guild**.

The deadline for receiving orders is Sunday 26 March.

The Flower Guild are planning a Flower Festival in St Laurence Church over the weekend of King Charles' coronation. Monetary donations for flowers would be most welcome.

PLEASE NOTE - 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.

PARISH LENTEN COURSE - please do purchase the book below if you wish to join the Lenten course, every Wednesday evening after Compline, on zoom.

Lent with St Francis – Daily Reflections
PAPERBACK £10.03 KINDLE EDITION £2.24

CLEAN JAM JARS WANTED - to make jams in aid of The Hospice in the Weald. Please leave under the table at the side of the church.

LENT LUNCHEES 2023 – will be organised by Hawkhurst Churches Together and held at the Baptist Church Hall, Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4BT from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Lunches will take place on the following dates, served by:

Friday 10th March- St Laurence church

Friday 17th March -Methodist Church

Friday 24th March – Baptist Church

Friday 31st March – St Barnabas Church

Good Friday 7th April – all Churches together

If you would like to help with serving or donations of soup/bread/butter/cheese/fruit on the 10th March or 7th April, please sign the list on the table at the side of the church or speak to Sandra.

NEW AREA DEAN'S COMMISSIONING – will take place at Choral Evensong today, Sunday 5th March at 5.00 p.m. at St George's Church, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4RL. Church members in the Deanery are invited to attend this service when Rev. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst will be commissioned by the Archdeacon, Ven. Andrew Sewell.

Choir members throughout the Deanery are invited to join with St George's Church choir for the service. There will be a rehearsal at 4.00 p.m. on the 5th March. Refreshments available after the service. Plenty of car parking around the Green.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organists:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817
Mr. Richard O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877