



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY  
THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC  
STYLE  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-

YEAR A  
21.5.2023



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The Zoom details for this service are:  
Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCa

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**Hymn (Please stand if you are able)**

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

Alleluia, Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed, Alleluia**

**Welcome/The Gathering**

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

**Gather us in**

The done and the doubting, the wishing  
and wondering, the puzzled and ponder-  
ing, 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

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Reading read by Sandra Dreyer

#### Acts 1:6-14

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk[a] from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Gradual Hymn:**

Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He has purged our stains,  
He took his seat above;  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord and judge shall come  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

### **Gospel -**

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

A reading from the gospel according to  
John

### **Glory to Christ our Lord**

After Jesus said this, he looked toward  
heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

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 Peter Wyllie**

Almighty God, may our prayers ascend to you just as Jesus Christ, your son, was taken up to heaven. As we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus let it inspire in us feelings of joy and hope rather than fear and separation as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God we pray for our Bishops, Justin and Rose and all Church Leaders; for all the clergy, readers and laity who serve this Church. May the Lord bless us and guide us in our work

as we move forward together to live the Gospel in the parish

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**  
Creator God, we pray for our troubled world its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are abused because of Christ. May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong and that the suffering won't last forever.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all those who are sick; guide them and strengthen

them through their illness. We pray also for those who care for the sick, those engaged in the caring professions and for family members who look after loved ones and especially for children who care for parents.

We pray for: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm those who are bereaved, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along the journey of death and resurrection.

We pray for those recently departed: Roy Pringle, Joanna Baker, John Garlick. We remember those whose years' mind occur this month: Simon Edwards, Davis Cutmore, Stella Keaney, Alfred Scrivener, Anthony Smith, Sheila Pope, Thomas Weguelin, Henry Husey, Joscelyn Thompson, Grace Parsons, Albert Richard, Mark Webber, Heather Murphy, David Wood, Robert Botha, Vera Boulton, Ione McEwen, Sylvia Parkinson.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, you have called us to follow you. As you hear our prayers

make us faithful in responding to your call.

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

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor,  
first-begotten from the dead,

Thou alone, our strong Defender,  
lifest up Thy people's head.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Jesus, true and living Bread!

Prince of Life, for us Thou livest,  
by Thy body souls are healed;

Prince of Peace, Thy peace Thou givest,  
by Thy blood is pardon sealed.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Word of God in flesh revealed.

Paschal Lamb! Thine offering finished  
once for all when Thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished

shall forevermore remain.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.  
Great High Priest of our profession,  
through the oil Thou ent'redst in;  
by Thy mighty intercession  
grace and mercy Thou dost win.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Only sacrifice for sin.

Life-impacting heav'nly Manna,  
stricken Rock, with streaming side,  
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna  
worship Thee, the Lamb who died.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

### **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**

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

**Communion Hymn**

Lord, who at thy first Eucharist did pray  
That all thy Church might be forever one,

Grant us at ev'ry Eucharist to say  
With longing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."

O may we all one bread, one body be,  
Through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;

Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;

Draw us the nearer each, to each we plead,

By drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;

Thus may we all one bread, one body be,

Through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

We pray thee, too, for wand'ers from thy fold;

O bring them back, Good Shepherd of the sheep,

Back to the faith which saints believed of old,



Back to the Church which still that faith  
doth keep;  
Soon may we all one bread, one body  
be,  
Through this blest Sacrament of Unity.  
So, Lord, at length when sacraments  
shall cease,  
May we be one with all thy Church  
above,  
One with thy saints in one unbroken  
peace,  
One with thy saints in one unbounded  
love;  
More blessed still in peace and love to  
be  
One with the Trinity in Unity.

### Post Communion Collect

**Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into  
all the world to preach the gospel of  
his kingdom: confirm us in this  
mission, and help us to live the good  
news we proclaim; through 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

The God of peace who brought again  
from the dead our Lord Jesus that great  
shepherd of the sheep, through the  
blood of the eternal covenant, make you  
perfect in every good work to do his will  
working in you that which is well-  
pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ...

### Hymn

O Lord my God, when I in awesome  
wonder,

Consider all the worlds thy hands have  
made;

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe  
displayed:

**Refrain:**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God,  
to thee:*

*How great thou art! How great thou  
art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God,  
to thee:*

*How great thou art! How great thou  
art!*

When through the woods and forest  
glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the  
trees,

When I look down from lofty mountain  
grandeur,

And hear the brook and feel the gentle  
breeze: **Refrain**

And when I think how God, his Son not  
sparing,

Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;

That on the cross, my burdens gladly  
bearing,

He bled and died to take away my sin:

**Refrain**

When Christ shall come with shouts of  
acclamation,

To take me home, what joy will fill my  
heart!

Then I will bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, my God, how great  
thou art! **Refrain**

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**

## NOTICES

### VILLAGE FETE HELP PLEASE

St Laurence Church have been asked  
to once again organise the Tea Stall at  
the Village Summer Fete, on Saturday  
17th June. We need volunteers to help  
with setting up the stall, to serve the  
tea as well as donations of cakes,  
please. A sign-up sheet is available on  
the notice table - please sign if you are  
able to help and indicate if you are able  
to donate cake. For further details  
speak to Sandra 754459

/ [sanrosdreyer1@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosdreyer1@gmail.com)

The fete is timed from noon to late!

### BOTTLES ARE WANTED FOR THE VILLAGE FETE ON

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE** – the church  
choir will be running a ‘Bottle  
Tombola’ at the fete and would like any  
type of filled ‘bottle’ for the tombola.  
There will be a collection box under the  
table at the side of the church.

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

**PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS)**  
– please be reminded that the way the  
Church will be collecting and  
accounting for regular and / or planned  
giving changed from the end of April  
2023. Information packs are available  
at the side of the church. Your  
participation in the new scheme is very  
much encouraged.

**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