

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst - Parish Eucharist
Service.

6.8. 2023 - The Transfiguration of
Christ

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

The Sidesmen today are: Diana
Ringer and Ali Jones

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET
HOME WITH YOU

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, unchanging, 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.

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
secrets 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

When Christ appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. As he is pure, all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure. So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

Confession

Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, and your justice as the great deep:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

We sing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God

The Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; 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.

The First Reading read by Alison Jones

A reading from the second letter of St. Peter: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Beloved:

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.

For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory,

"This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain.

Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable.

You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

'Tis good, Lord, to be here!

Your glory fills the night;

Your face and garments, like the sun,

Shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here,

Your beauty to behold,

Where Moses and Elijah stand,

Your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past!

Promise of things to be!

We hail your body glorified,

And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death,

We see your kingdom come;

We long to hold the vision bright,

And make this hill our home.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here!

Yet we may not remain;

But since you bid us leave the mount,

Come with us to the plain.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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 Christ our Lord

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them;

his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here.

If you wish, I will make three tents here,

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold,

a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,

then from the cloud came a voice that said,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;

listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate

and were very much afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying,

"Rise, and do not be afraid."

And when the disciples raised their eyes,

they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,

Jesus charged them,

"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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 Anne Wheelhouse

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord of glory, it is good that we are here. In peace we make our prayer to you. In trust we confirm

our faith in you ... Help us to set our faces steadfastly to where you would have us go.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on your Church, proclaiming your beloved Son to the world and listening to the promptings of his Spirit ... May she be renewed in holiness that she may reflect your glory.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on the nations of the world, scarred by hatred, strife and war ... May they be healed by the touch of your hand.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on those in need and distress, suffering as your Son has suffered and waiting for the salvation you promise ... May the day break and Christ the Morning Star bring them the light of his presence. We pray for Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hillary Deller

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, it is good if we suffer with you so that we shall be glorified with you. According to your promise bring all Christ's brothers and sisters Those recently departed: Joan Kent

And all those whose years' mind occur this month: Olivia Mason, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Douglas Nurney, Eric Warren, Gordon Garwood-Warren, William Livermore, Gerald Abbey, Frederick Skeet. ... to see him with their own eyes in majesty and to be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. To him be praise, dominion and worship now and for all eternity.

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

In the silence of our hearts we offer to God our own particular prayers....

Lord, look with favour.

Lord, transfigure and heal.

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

The Peace

Christ will transfigure our human body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body. We are the body of Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour,

first-begotten from the dead,

Thou alone, our strong Defender, liftest 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 every stain.

Great High Priest of our profession,

thro' the veil Thou ent'redst in;

by Thy mighty intercession grace and mercy Thou dost win.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Only sacrifice for sin.

Life-imparting 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!

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 to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer Preface and then all 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.**

(Sit/kneel)

The Priest continues, recalling and remembering with us the Last Supper..... then we sing:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

At the end of the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer we respond Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

We Break Bread

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.

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.

We Share in Holy Communion

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 Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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 Chalice bearers today are:
Andrea Higgins and Alison
Parsons

Communion Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the
Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Come, bow before him now, with
reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand
on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the
Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is
shining all around;

he burns with holy fire, with splen-
dour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our ra-
diant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is
shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,

he comes to cleanse and heal, to
minister his grace.

No work too hard for him, in faith
receive from him;

be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Holy God, we see your glory in the
face of Jesus Christ: may we who
are partakers at his table reflect
his life in word and deed, that all

the world may know his power to
change and save. This we ask
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Almighty God, we thank you for
feeding us with the body and
blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our
souls and bodies to be a living
sacrifice. Send us out in the
power of your Spirit to live and
work to your praise and glory.**

Amen.

WE GO IN CHRIST'S PEACE

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Blessing

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance and scatter
the darkness from your path.

Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your
heart.

Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on
high, draw near to guide your feet
into the way of peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

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.

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 de-
parted through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory.
Amen.**

**Please sit for the Organ Volun-
tary**

NOTICES

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 col-
lecting and accounting for regular
and / or planned giving changed
from the end of April 2023. Infor-
mation packs are available at the
side of the church. Your partici-
pation in the new scheme is very
much encouraged. Please speak
to Mr Julian van Kan for further
information.

THE NEXT BREAKFAST TALK
will be at 9.30am. on Saturday
30th September.

The talk will be given by Nicholas Holtam, former Bishop of Salisbury.

The title of the talk will be:

‘Creatiiontide – Everything, Everywhere, All the Time’

THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST for St. Laurence will take place at 10am. on the 13th August to celebrate and give thanks for the blessings of our common life of faith here in the parish. Prosecco and Cake will be served after the service.

LOAVES AND FISHES

You can still leave items on the Vicarage doorstep for the food bank as the summer holiday is coming up and stocks will be depleted. Thank you.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The GDPR Privacy Notices for St Laurence Church can be found on the church website. Please ask the churchwardens if you have any questions or would like a paper copy of these notices.

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

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

P.T.O.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey on the Transfiguration of Christ

The Transfiguration loomed large in Archbishop’s Ramsey’s understanding of the Gospel and the Faith. Indeed, he was once asked

which of his books he enjoyed writing most, and, he replied, his 1949 book **The Glory of God and the Transfiguration of Christ.**

Here are two wonderful passages from that book:

“Forgetfulness of the truths for which the Transfiguration stands has often led to distortions. The severance of the New Testament from the Old, the cleavage between God the Redeemer and God the Creator are obvious illustrations. It is possible, alike in Christology and in sacramental teaching and in the idea of the Christian life, to regard the supernatural as replacing the natural in such a way as to ‘overthrow the nature of a sacrament’. It is possible to regard the redemptive act of God in Christ in terms so transcendental that nature and history are not seen in real relation to it, or to identify the divine act with nature and history in such a way that the other-worldly tension of the Gospel is forgetting. Against these distortions the Transfiguration casts its light in protest” (page 144).

“Confronted with a universe more terrible than ever in the blindness and the destructiveness of its potentialities, men and women must be led to Christian faith, not as a panacea of progress or as an otherworldly solution unrelated to

history, but as a gospel of Transfiguration. Such a gospel transcends the world and yet speaks directly to the immediate here-and-now. He who is transfigured is the Son of Man; and as he discloses on the holy mountain another world, he reveals that no part of created things, and no moment of created time lies outside the power of the Spirit, who is Lord, to change it from glory to glory” (page 147).

And in terms of Ramsey’s view of the proximity of earth and heaven, suffering and glory, here is a short passage from **his book, Introducing the Christian Faith:**

When we are faced with suffering, “it can make all the difference to look towards the cross of Jesus Christ. From there the power of transfiguring comes. And it helps to know that in the suffering of Jesus God himself is there... If we are near to Jesus we are helped to realise that the world-to-come is near, we can know that the perspective of heaven about which Jesus spoke to the dying thief is near” (page 31).

