



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY  
THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC  
STYLE**

**THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
TRINITY- YEAR A  
20.8.2023**



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

The sidemen today are: Alison  
Jones and Diana Ringer

**Introit Hymn**

Longing for light, we wait in  
darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy  
people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is  
troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save  
us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gathered today.*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for  
others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gathered today.*

Longing for shelter, many are  
homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering  
others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gathered today.*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to  
belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gathered today.*

**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**

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 read by Kwame Appiah Pepra**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-7**

Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.

The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants— all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my

holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

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

**Gradual Hymn:**

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of ev'ning, find a voice,  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye folk of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on Him cast your care;  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship Him in humbleness;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;  
O praise Him, O praise Him!

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent and believe in the Gospel.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to Christ our Lord**

**Matthew 15:21-28**

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

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

Loving God we recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers and petitions.

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

Holy God, we pray for your church and ask that it might always provide a solid foundation upon which we can anchor our lives. We especially pray for Christians who pay a heavy price for their faith; who daily experience hostility, from their governments, employers and neighbours, as a result of their identification with Christ.

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

Creator God, you created us to be stewards of your creation but we have chopped down forests, polluted the air, poisoned the rivers and seas, destroyed the places where animals live and then pursued them to extinction. Help us change our ways so that we can look after the world, and to make it the way that you want it to be.

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

Father God, help us be reliable and honest in what we do, and friendly to all we meet in our daily lives. Help us always to give our best, to work to our fullest and never be ashamed to confess your name. In our leisure time, help us to play hard, but to play fair. Help us to win without boasting, and to lose graciously without making excuses.

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

Gracious God, We pray for the ill, the lonely and distressed especially those tormented by the demon of mental illness. We pray for healing and wholeness in their lives and we pray for ourselves. Help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair. We pray for it for ourselves, and for those who we now name before you: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hilary Deller  
Lord, in your Mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, remember the souls of your servants now fallen asleep and for those who are saddened by their passing. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore. We pray for Gillian Robinson, recently departed.

We remember those whose years' mind occur this month: Carol Anne Larkin, Olivia Mason, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Douglas Nurney, Eric Warren, Gordon Garwood-Warren, Eunice Botha, William Livermore, Gerald Abbey, Frederick Skeet, Spencer Marriott, Jack Osborn, Richard Jennings, Kenneth Mallion.

Gwendoline Joan Clarkson  
Lord, in your Mercy: **hear our prayer**

Faithful God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

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**

### Offertory Hymn

God is love: his the care,  
tending each, ev'rywhere,  
God is love, all is there!  
Jesus came to show him,

that we all might know him!

Refrain:

Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
sing aloud, loud, loud!  
God is good! God is truth!  
God is beauty! Praise him!

None can see God above;  
we can share life and love;  
thus may we Godward move,  
finding him in creation,  
holding every nation. [Refrain]

Jesus lived on the earth,  
hope and life brought to birth  
and affirmed human worth,  
for he came to save us  
by the truth he gave us. [Refrain]

To our Lord praise we sing,  
light and life, friend and King,  
coming down, love to bring,  
pattern for our duty,  
showing God in beauty. [Refrain]

### **Prayer of Adoration**

Heaven is here, and earth and the  
space between them is thin. Dis-  
tance may divide, but Christ's prom-  
ise 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 pray-  
ers and spreads a table for our sat-  
isfaction.

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 in-  
tends 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 relation-

ship 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.**

#### **Prayer of Humble Access**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant 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 character 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 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**

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts  
ev'rywhere  
their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are joined as one  
throughout the whole wide earth.

### **Post Communion Collect**

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; 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 Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing ...

**Hymn**

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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**

**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. Please speak to Mr Julian Van Kan for further information.

**THE NEXT BREAKFAST TALK** - will be at 9.30am. on Saturday 30th September. For catering purposes, please sign the sheet at the side of the church if you intend to come to the talk.

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

*The title of the talk will be:*

*‘Creationtide – Everything, Everywhere, All the Time’*

## **LOAVES AND FISHES**

You can still leave items on the Vicarage doorstep for the food bank as during the summer holiday 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.

## **REFURBISHMENT OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN**

As you are aware the Church kitchen is undergoing a refurbishment. We are most grateful to a very generous benefactor who is supporting the project. We have incurred a few extra plumbing and decorating costs and would be grateful if anyone would like to give us an additional donation (however small) to help pay for this work.

**ALI and LIZ** would like to thank those parishioners who have already kindly donated to the project.

**RIDE+STRIDE** for Churches annual event takes place on Saturday 9 September. 10.00am to 6.00pm. **We need volunteers to raise sponsorship money** by either cycling, walking (striding) or

you can raise sponsorship for being a 'Welcomer' sitting in the church for how many hours you wish to on the day. The money raised is used to pay grants to Kent churches. For more details and sponsorship forms speak to Sandra or email [sanrosdreyer1@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosdreyer1@gmail.com)

## **PARISH LUNCH**

On Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> Diana and Stephen Ringer will be cooking a delicious lunch which will be served in the church. More details will follow next week. Remember to keep this date free!

## **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