



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY  
CHANGED LIVES - CHANGING LIVES  
THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC  
STYLE  
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
TRINITY- YEAR A  
17.9.2023**



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

**The sidemen today are: Jean Elliott and Ali Jones**

**Introit 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 courage  
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 courage  
for the living of these days,

for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring  
madness;

bend our pride to your control;

shame our wanton, selfish  
gladness,

rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

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 courage

-serving you whom we adore,

-serving you whom we adore.

**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**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 - Romans 14:1-12** **read by Rachel Elliott**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die,

we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

"As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

**Gradual Hymn:**

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark  
vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishéd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me:  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:21-35**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent and believe in the Gospel.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,**

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

A reading from the gospel according  
to Matthew

**Glory to Christ our Lord**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in

full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused.

Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.

Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

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

## **Reflection**

### **Hymn**

Baptised in water,  
sealed by the Spirit  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our  
king;  
heirs of salvation,  
trusting his promise -  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptised in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our  
king;  
one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven  
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

### **The Baptism of Tallulah Rose Jordan**

Baptised in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our  
king;  
born of one Father,  
we are his children -  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

### **The Prayers of the Church led by Julian van Kan**

Holy God, you have called us here  
today; and so as we gather in your  
house we offer to you our prayers  
which stem from our love for you  
and our love and concern for those  
we love and for the people of the

world. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, when the Church joins together, we can show people a much fuller picture of Jesus and His Kingdom. We pray for your church, and the churches in our local community, and ask that there will be a growing desire to get together and share in each others' company. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community and for those who work so hard to make fellowship and fund-raising events so pleasurable and financially successful. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Tallulah Rose Jordan baptised today, We pray for her parents and godparents, that all things belonging to the Holy Spirit may live and grow in them. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong

principles. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all around our world affected by climate change and natural disasters. We hold in our prayers those affected by the earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in Libya. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, forgive us when we waste our lives by being too busy to enjoy your creation. Teach us how to make spaces in the day to do the things we most enjoy and to appreciate what you have created for us. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Just as you rested from your work, help us to practise the discipline of recreation and help me to become your hands and feet in my street so that my neighbours will one day ask me to tell them more about you. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, help those we know and love to turn away from habits which are harmful to them. Help them to turn to you in times of crisis, rather than reaching for quick-fix solutions. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we also bring to you those we know who are ill or suffering in any way. Give them healing and restore

them in body, mind and spirit. We especially pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker and any others known to us. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. Be close to those who are recently bereaved – we think especially of the families of Anthony Farnfield and Mo Wright, recently departed. Strengthen them with the knowledge that you are always there for them and to carry them through difficult times.

We pray for all those whose years' mind occur this month: Joan Jennings, Harry Sidebottom, Gladys Bridgland, Jamie Hiscock, Carolyn Horner, Pat Hodges, Ivy Fawcett, Michael Kilby, Iris Weeks, Peggy Richardson, Geoffrey Pynegar, Michael Wright, George Maskell, Olive Boulton, Michael Brown, Richard Thompson, James Little. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, at the start of this new week, help us to be an example to others and show us the practical steps we need to take to develop consistency and integrity in all that we do in our lives. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

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**

Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with men,  
their pattern and their King;

Still to the lowly soul

he doth himself impart,  
and for his dwelling and his throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;  
may ours this blessing be;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple meet for thee.

### **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.**

### **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  
Brian Elliott and Charles Vernede

### **Communion Hymn**

We pray thee, heavenly Father,  
To hear us in thy love,  
And pour upon thy children  
The unction from above;  
That so in love abiding,  
From all defilement free,  
We may in pureness offer  
Our Eucharist to thee.

All that we have we offer,  
For it is all thine own,  
All gifts, by thine appointment,  
In bread and cup are shown;  
One thing alone we bring not,  
The wilfulness of sin,  
And all we bring is nothing  
Save that which is within.

Within the pure oblation,  
Beneath the outward sign,  
By that his operation,—  
The Holy Ghost divine,—  
Lies hid the sacred Body,  
Lies hid the precious Blood,  
Once slain, now ever glorious,  
Of Christ our Lord and God.

Wherefore, though all unworthy  
To offer sacrifice,  
We pray that this our duty  
Be pleasing in thine eyes;  
For praise, and thanks and worship,  
For mercy and for aid,  
The Catholic oblation  
Of Jesus Christ is made.

### **Post Communion Collect**

Give thanks to the Lord for God is  
gracious

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with  
your perpetual mercy; and, because  
without you our human frailty cannot  
but fall, keep us ever by your help  
from all things hurtful, and lead us to  
all things profitable to our salvation;  
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 keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine  
upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his  
countenance upon you and give you  
his peace; and the blessing of God  
almighty, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, be among you and  
remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored,  
forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.

Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.

In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before  
him,

dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

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**

Handel- Concerto F Major

## **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’***

**ST LAURENCE HARVEST  
SUPPER AND QUIZ** is to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September in

Church. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.  
Tickets £10 per person.  
Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) - £25  
Raffle and pay bar.  
Tickets available from the Social Committee after church (or call Ali on 01580 755705)

## **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