

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst - Parish Eucharist
Service.

The First Sunday before
Advent

The Solemnity of Our Lord
Jesus Christ, King of the
Universe 26.11.2023

The Zoom details or this
service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1Uc

The Sidesmen today are Jean
Elliott and Kate Lagden

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

Welcome

Entrance Hymn:

The advent of our King
Our thoughts must now employ;
Then let us meet him on the road
With songs of holy joy.

The co-eternal Son
A maiden's offspring see;
A servant's form Christ putteth on,
To set his people free.

In glory from his throne
Again will Christ descend,
And summon all who are his own

To joys that never end.

Our joyful praises sing
To Christ, who set us free;
Like tribute to the Father bring,
And Holy Ghost, to 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

The kingdom is yours, but we turn
away from your just rule: Lord,
have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The power is yours, but we trust in
our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have
mercy.**

The glory is yours, but we fall
short of the glory of God: Lord,
have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

A time of silence and self-examination is kept.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray together

**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard;
In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and**

**In the faithfulness of our lives,
may your Word be shown.
Amen.**

**First Reading read by Alison
Jones**

**A Reading from the letter to the
Ephesians Chapter one begin-
ning at the fifteenth verse**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under

his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Christ is the King! O friends re-
joice;

Brothers and sisters, with one
voice

Make all men know

He is your choice.

Ring our ye bells, give tongue,
give tongue;

let your most merry peal be rung,
While our exultant song is sung.

O magnify the Lord, and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For Christ's brave saints
of ancient days,

Who with a faith for ever new
Followed the King,

and round Him drew

Thousands of faithful men and
true.

O Christian women, Christian
men,

All the world over, seek again

The Way disciples followed then.

Christ through all ages is the
same:

Place the same hope
in His great name,

With the same faith
His word proclaim.
Let love's unconquerable might
Your scattered companies unite
In service to the Lord of light:
So shall God's will on earth be
done,
New lamps be lit, new tasks be-
gun,
And the whole Church
at last be one.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our fa-
ther David that is to come!

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew, Chapter
Twenty Five beginning at the
Thirty First Verse

Glory to Christ our Lord

Jesus said to his disciples:
"When the Son of Man comes in
his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious
throne,
and all the nations will be assem-
bled before him.
And he will separate them one
from another,

as a shepherd separates the
sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his
right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on
his right,

'Come, you who are blessed by
my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the
world.

For I was hungry and you gave
me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me
drink,

a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,

ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer
him and say,

'Lord, when did we see you hun-
gry and feed you,

or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger
and welcome you,

or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in
prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in re-
ply,

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you
did

for one of the least brothers of
mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left,
'Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for
the devil and his angels.
For I was hungry and you gave
me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no
drink,
a stranger and you gave me no
welcome,
naked and you gave me no cloth-
ing,
ill and in prison, and you did not
care for me.'
Then they will answer and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hun-
gry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in
prison,
and not minister to your needs?'
He will answer them, 'Amen, I say
to you,
what you did not do for one of
these least brothers of mine,
you did not do for me.'
And these will go off to eternal
punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life."
This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ

The Reflection

The Nicene Creed

**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 Robin Crowther

Almighty God, your son Jesus is King of Kings, Lord of Lords and the redeemer of the human race; look down upon us, your earthly subjects, as we humbly lay ourselves and our intercessions before you. We are Jesus' people, and we wish to be more closely united with him in all we do and say. Search the heart of each one of us as we freely consecrate ourselves today to your his Sacred Majesty.

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

Creator God, we pray for your world where many indeed have never known about you and your son; but where sadly many, have rejected you. Let Jesus be King, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken him, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned him altogether.

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

Father God, we pray for King Charles III. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us We pray too for other earthly leaders, kings, queens and rulers; encourage them all to serve their people following Jesus' example constantly seeking the common good in all that they do.

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

Heavenly Father, Lord of the past and the future: we thank you for all the good things that have happened during the past Church Year. We thank you for your people in this parish and the fellowship and joy of our worship together as a community and for

all those who have worked so hard to run and maintain our church here in Hawkhurst
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for all those who suffer in any way. We pray that they will know the presence of your Son alongside them and the power of Christ the King within them bringing peace and healing for them and help and encouragement for those caring for them in their hour of need. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

Merciful God, when we have to part from those whom we loved it hurts; so when the loss we have sustained turns to anger and when we find words of comfort hard to hear, surround us with your love, turning our grief to hope. We pray for those who have died: for the newly presented servant of God: Wendy Gunn.

We pray for those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time:

Camillus Travers, Frederick Wood, Freda Ross-Thomson, Audrey Warren, Elsie Williams, Alan Vaughan, Joyce Fawcett, Paddy Turner, Niko Vaughan, John Mitham, Lynne Wood, Audrey Buss, Eddie Mole, Muriel Roberts, Elinor Michalski, Leon Michalski

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

Lord God, Almighty, we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives. At the end of this church year we commend to you all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year and ask that you continue to use us and our prayers to make a difference in their lives.

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

Lord God, do not abandon us in our desolation. Keep us safe in the midst of trouble, and complete your purpose for us through your steadfast love and faithfulness.

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

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them

the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy.

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

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

The Peace To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

Blessed are you Lord God, for you have looked favourably on your people and redeemed them. You raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of your servant David, as you spoke through the mouth of your prophets from of old. You have shown us the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered his holy

covenant, the oath that you swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness before you all our days, and finally come to dwell with you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of
your glory**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

God, most high, you sent Jesus as a prophet and a promise; for he went before you to prepare your ways, to give knowledge of salvation to your people by the forgiveness of their sins. You show us the cost and glory of your salvation in the breaking and pouring and sharing of bread and wine.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that your people may be sanctified by your grace, and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread and gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

By your tender mercy, Lord God, the dawn from high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide us in the way of peace. Inscribe in us that tender mercy, that we may be people of tenderness and mercy. Clothe us and all your creation in the kingship of Christ, that we may all know your power in weakness, your rule through grace and your triumph through sacrifice, and all bow before your throne and worship in your glory, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body

The Agnus Dei

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.

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.

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 Distribution of Communion

The Chalice bearers today are: Felicity Robinson and Peggy Stone

Post Communion Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plentifully rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

Banns and Notices

The Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing ...

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Closing Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.

He whose Word cannot be broken
formed thee for His own abode.

On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,

springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,

never fails from age to age.

Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name.

Fading is the worldling's pleasures,
all his boasted pomp and show;

solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

And with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Retiring Organ Voluntary -

Please remain seated for the organ voluntary
which is Carillon in F - Couperin

The week ahead:

November

29 Day of Intercession and
Thanksgiving for the Missionary
Work of the
Church

30 Andrew the Apostle

December

1 Charles de Foucauld, Her-
mit in the Sahara, 1916

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – 8th – 10th December 2023.

The Social Committee are asking for donations to help this bi-annual event to be a success. Lists are on the table at the side of the church for people to pledge items towards the **refreshment stall**, including:

A: - Brownies, Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls, Scones etc. for all 3 days.

B: - Donations of soup for Saturday and Sunday.

There is a list for people to sign up if they are willing to help serve the refreshments, these will be in 1 to 1.5 hour slots.

We are also asking for **Front of House Stewards** to greet peo-

ple, hand out lists of tree participants and encourage them to vote for their favourite tree.

The Hamper Raffle: - We are also hoping that people will be able to donate non-perishable Christmas food items to make up into the raffle hampers. Items such as Mince Pies, Stollen, Christmas Cakes, Puddings, Chocolates etc. as well as maybe Christmas Napkins and crackers will all be gratefully received. A box will be at the side of the church for these donations for the next two Sundays and things can also be dropped in at the church during Babyccino on a Thursday morning.

With Many Thanks.

The Social Committee.

NATIVITY PLAY/CRIB SERVICE

All children welcome to join in....
Rehearsals will be on 21st Dec
from 10 - 11.30

22nd Dec from 10 - 11.30

Saturday 23rd - Dress Rehearsal
from 2.30 - 4.00

Nativity Play - 5.00 - 6.00 on
24th December.

Adults and children welcome to
join in.

**Sign up list on the table at the
side of the church.**

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00 am.

Please do join us.

BABYCCINO CAFÉ breaks up on Thursday December 14th and resumes on Thursday January 4th 2023.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – SIGHTSAVERS

INTERNATIONAL ~ Please feel free to take an envelope, make a donation and hang it on this tree (which will be up by next Sunday) to help this worthy cause. Your envelope will be removed and replaced by a star so that by Christmas we hope to see a tree full of stars.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF SIGHTSAVERS

International Sightsavers believes nobody should be blind from avoidable causes, and we want everybody, no matter where they live, to be able to get eye treatment when they need it, regardless of who they are or where they live. Globally, the number of people in need of eye care is spiralling. Unless eye health services improve, the number of people who are blind **could triple to 115 million** by 2050. Sightsavers aims to address this by providing eye

surgery and training eye care workers to provide vital treatment. Since our work began, we've helped to carry out more than 10 million sight-saving eye operations. Through community volunteers, we distribute medication to protect people from blinding diseases that can cause pain, stigma and lifelong impairment. We also work to **ensure health services are accessible** to people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar:

The Revd. Canon Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705
Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877