

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing
lives

St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst - Parish Eucharist

10.12.2023

The Second Sunday of Advent,
Year B

The Sidespeople today are: Jean
Elliott and Alison Jones

The Zoom Details are:
Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human. ***[Refrain]***

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;

Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. ***[Refrain]***

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry! ***[Refrain]***
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Second
Advent Candle - The Candle of
Peace

The prophets who foretold the
birth of Jesus

Last Sunday we lit the First
Candle of Hope in our Advent
Wreath, and celebrated the
patriarchs. We light it again as we
celebrate the prophets, and we
place our hope in Jesus the
blessing of God for all nations.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,
just and true: to you be praise and
glory for ever. Of old you spoke by
the mouth of your prophets, but in
our days you speak through your
Son, whom you have appointed
the heir of all things. Grant us,
your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and
watching when he comes again in

glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

(The second candle is lit)

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray:

Lord God you spoke through your prophets and promised a kingdom of peace. We welcome you Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our hearts long for the establishment of your kingdom of justice and righteousness. **Amen.**

Penitence

In silence let us call to mind our sins against God, others and ourselves.. We confess together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

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.**

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, 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. Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 read by Clive Dewing

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from
the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of
the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a
highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be
made low;
the rugged land shall be made a
plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall
be revealed,
and all people shall see it
together;
for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his
flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,

carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks to be to God

Hymn

Hark, the glad sound! The
Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to
release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before Him
burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to
bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the riches of His grace,
to enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of
Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,
with Thy beloved Name.

Gospel Reading

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of
God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside

and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

were going out to him

and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River

as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair,

with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptised you with water; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise 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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from 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.**

**With the Father and the Son he
is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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 Norma Crowe**

Almighty God, you sent your
servant John the Baptist to
prepare your people to welcome
the Messiah. Inspire all who are
stewards of your truth, to turn our
disobedient hearts to you, so that
when Christ comes again to be
our judge we may stand with
confidence before his glory.

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

Faithful God we pray for your
blessing to be upon this
congregation, upon the Church
throughout the world and upon
our parish. May your presence be
seen vividly in what we do and
say each day. We pray that your
joy and your love will flow freely in
and through us and that we might
ever be perfect examples of your
love in action.

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

Creator God, with axe and
winnowing fork you clear a holy
space where hurt and destruction
have no place, and a little child is
King. Clear the trouble spots of
our world from hatred and despair
and sow seeds of joy and peace
so that shoots of hope may spring
forth and all people, whatever
their creed, race, colour or gender
may live together in harmony with
one another.

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

Father God you enfold those on
the margins of society with love
and you experienced through
Jesus what it was like to be
excluded. We ask you to help
those at the edges of our
communities and give them hope

through the patience and encouragement of all of us who claim to be your people.

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

Merciful God, we remember all whose illness stems from mental health issues, who often suffer in silence because of stigma and who reach out for help that is often not there because of stretched services.

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

Help us to continue to serve the needs of those who suffer.

We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

Loving God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom. We pray for

the recently departed: Wendy Gunn

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

We pray for those whose years mind fall at this time:

Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, John Heady, Herbert Fautly, Matthew Liggett, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey Fautly, Irene Reed, Nancy Bennett, Charles Newcomb, Fergus Gask, Gerald Larkin, Ignace Van Kan

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

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. May what we have sung and spoken with our lips become strong belief in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts become our way of life, throughout this Advent and in the years to come.

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

We bring to the Lord our own petitions....

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Hymn

The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flow'r,
shall bud and blossom then,
and justice, from her heav'nly bow'r,
look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, and judge the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for you are he who shall by right
the nations all possess.

For great you are, and wonders great
by your strong hand are done:
you, in your everlasting seat,
remain the Lord alone.

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 him 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.**

The Fraction

We break this Bread to share in
the body of Christ

**Though we are many we are
one body because we all share
in 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

And now, O Father, mindful of the love

that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that pleads above,
we here present, we here spread forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
and only look on us as found in him;
look not on our misusings of thy grace,
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:
for lo, between our sins and their reward
we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,
by this prevailing presence we appeal:
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
from tainting mischief keep them white and clear,
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,

most patient Saviour, who canst
love us still;
and by this food, so awful and so
sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad
and free,
and grant us never more to part
with thee.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Father in heaven, who sent your
Son to redeem the world and will
send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in
the humility and purity of his first
coming that, when he comes
again, we may be ready to greet
him with joyful love and firm faith;
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**

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you, scatter the
darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory; and the
blessing ... **Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we
bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our
lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's
true King.

King of our hearts, Christ makes
us kings;
kingship with him his servants
gain;
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of
all,
Christ's world we serve to share
Christ's reign.

Priests of the world, Christ sends
us forth
the world of time to consecrate,
the world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-
create.

Christ's are our lips, his word we
speak;
prophets are we whose deeds
proclaim

Christ's truth in love, that we may
be

Christ in the world, to spread
Christ's name.

We are the church; Christ bids us
show

that in his church all nations find
their hearth and home, where
Christ restores
true peace, true love, to all
mankind.

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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We listen to the organ Voluntary:
Veni Domine - Pietro Yon

NOTICES

**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at
Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00 am.**

Please do join us.

ADVENT GIVING TREE –

SIGHTSAVERS

INTERNATIONAL ~ Please feel free to take an envelope, make a donation and hang it on the tree. Your envelope will be removed and replaced by a star so that by Christmas we hope to see a tree full of stars.

NATIVITY PLAY/CRIB

SERVICE - sign- up list on table if you wish to take part. Adults

and children welcome to join in.
Sun Dec 24th at 5pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
AT ST LAURENCE

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

– 6.00pm

Village Carol Service

with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

**CHRISTMAS EVE – SUN
24 DECEMBER –**

5.00pm.

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

Adults and children welcome to join in. **Sign up list on the table in the church.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE – SUN
24 DECEMBER 11.30pm.**

Midnight Mass with carols and the blessing of the Crib.

**CHRISTMAS DAY –
MONDAY 25
DECEMBER
8.00am. Holy
Communion BCP
10.00am. Parish
Communion with carols
for
Christmas Day.**

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