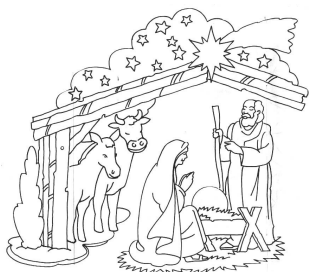


**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
HAWKHURST
FAMILY COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS MORNING
25TH DECEMBER 2023**

THE ZOOM DETAILS FOR THIS SERVICE ARE:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1Uca



The Gladness of Christ is HOPE
The Spirit of Christ is PEACE
The Heart of Christ is LOVE

CAROL NO 10:

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

WE GATHER

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is the Messiah, the Lord.

For the birth of Jesus your Son, our Saviour, cradled in a manger at Bethlehem. **We thank you, heavenly Father.**

For the love and gentle care of Mary, his mother, most blessed of

all women. **We thank you, heavenly Father.**

For the goodwill of this Christmas season, in our hearts and in our homes, bringing joy and gladness to us all.

We thank you, heavenly Father.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Father, we have sinned and strayed from the truth. May your Son's birth restore our self respect and give us grace to persevere:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, you came to lead us to the loving mercy of God: **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, fill us this Christmastide, with your consolation and strength: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at

Bethlehem draws us to kneel in

wonder at heaven touching earth:

accept our heartfelt praise as we

worship you, our Saviour and our

eternal God. **Amen**

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.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Please sit. First Reading: Read

by Alison Jones

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter fifty two beginning at the seventh verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion "Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, o ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

CAROL NO 11:

JOY TO THE WORLD

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter one, beginning at the first verse. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into

being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

CAROL NO: 6

AWAY IN A MANGER

REFLECTION

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

We stand to say:

THE CREED

Do you believe and trust in God

the Father,
who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his
Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed
mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his
Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of
God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one
God.**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Please Sit/kneel)

Prayers led by the Vicar

On the first day of Christmas
Jesus Christ, God's gift to us on
that first Christmas, was born to
Mary and Joseph in the poorest of
circumstances. We pray for the
poor of the world many of whom
live in conditions far worse than
the stable where Jesus began his
earthly life. Lord, in your Mercy:
Hear our Prayer

On the second day of Christmas
the Heavenly choir of Angels
appeared to the shepherds and
sang to the Glory of God; so we
give thanks for our church music
and those who play and sing
God's praises, not only with
Carols, at this joyful time, but

week by week in our worship together in Christian churches throughout the world. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the third day of Christmas The Shepherds returned home to spread the Good News; we pray for evangelists, preacher's and teachers who tell out the Gospel story of God's amazing gift to all humankind. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the fourth day of Christmas the Three Kings arrived in Jerusalem; we raise before God the Holy city of Jerusalem praying that it may be place of true peace, and an international centre of worship for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the fifth day of Christmas the Three Kings sought news of Jesus from King Herod; we pray for rulers of the nations in our troubled world where so many leaders abuse their positions and their power.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the sixth day of Christmas, Herod ordered the "Slaughter of the Innocents"; we pray for all those who continue to be slaughtered in acts of genocide, racial cleansing and similar atrocities. We continue to pray for the sick and suffering known to us: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Christian

Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Brian Elliott. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the seventh day of Christmas, The Kings found Jesus and presented their gifts – we give thanks for the season of giving and receiving and for the joy and happiness that it generates. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the eighth day of Christmas, Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord and for Him to be circumcised; we pray for all newborn children, for those being baptised and receiving their Christian names.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the ninth day of Christmas, Simeon rejoiced that he had not died before he had seen the Lord's Christ; we pray for those who are coming to the end of their lives and especially for those who have seen Jesus in their lives and lived that life accordingly.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the tenth day of Christmas, Anna, who had devoted her whole life to prayer and fasting, recognised Jesus as The Redeemer; so we pray for those who within religious communities across the world fast and pray for

the world and for each of us.. In the same spirit we now pray for those who are ill or in need.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Holy family left the shelter of the stable – we pray for all those involved in hospitality and tourism and for all people who, like the Innkeeper in Bethlehem, make their homes a place of welcome and love.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the Twelfth day of Christmas, the Holy Family fled to Egypt – we pray for all those fleeing their homes in Gaza, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Iraq and those European countries which are welcoming them and giving safe refuge.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the recently departed. We pray for those whose years' mind occur at this time: Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, Hebert Fautly, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah May Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey May Fautly, Irene Nora Reed, Charles Newcomb, Ignace Van Kan, Gerald Larkin.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Lord God you sent your angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. We have heard his story, the story of Your own Son. May he fill us with joy to bring this good news to others today and through the twelve days of Christmas and into the New Year beyond.

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

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand and the Priest introduces the peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

CAROL NO 5:

THE FIRST NOWELL

During which a collection will be made

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS.

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.

We sing

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him
Give my heart.

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

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

We give thanks for all that God has done for us.

God the Father created the heavens, the earth and everything in them; and created us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us together as the people of God

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to worship this God who loves

**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.**

(Please Sit/kneel)

We praise you Father that before Jesus our Saviour suffered and died, he gave us this holy meal to share and told us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his

disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord, we bring our lives and all we have. We give ourselves to you, as you gave yourself for us.

Help us to be open to you.
Help us to receive your Spirit,
The Spirit of Freedom,
The Spirit of Peace,
The Spirit of Love.

As we share your Spirit, so help us to share the life of Jesus. Accept this offering of praise, which we make with all our hearts.

Blessing and honour and glory and power, are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

This 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 Distribution of Communion

For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

The Chalice Bearers are: Stephen

Ringer and Rachael Ringer

Communion Hymn

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have
been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's
Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

This is He whom heav'n-taught
singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the
prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now He shines, the long-
expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore
Him;
angel hosts, His praises sing:
pow'rs, dominions, bow before
Him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!
Christ, to Thee with God the
Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high

thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*We pray together in thanksgiving
to God*

Father of all, the child born for us
is the Saviour of the world. May he
who made us your children
welcome us into your kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns with
you now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

*The Priest pronounces a
Blessing.*

*We respond **Amen.***

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

CAROL NO 12:

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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 sit to listen to the Organ
Voluntary:**

Please do say a prayer at the Crib
for peace and reconciliation in our
world.

*A Very Happy and Blessed
Christmas to you all from
Fr Rodney, Sandra and all
the members of the PCC*