

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH  
HAWKHURST  
PARISH EUCHARIST  
NEW YEARS EVE  
31.12.2023  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**



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

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The Sidesmen today are: Anne  
Wheelhouse and Diana Ringer

**CAROL NO 3**

**WE GATHER**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**INTRODUCTION**

Every family has its cares and worries. In today's celebration we are shown that Mary and Joseph and Jesus had more than their fair share of problems and woes, especially that the very reason and

heart of this family was Jesus, this special son. They did everything for him. What is typical for us in the Holy Family is that in everything they sought and followed God's will: this will be characteristic too for Jesus, God's will was to be his food and drink. Let the heart of our families, too be Jesus, and with him and Mary and Joseph, we ask ourselves what God wants of us and we do it.

**CONFESSION**

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.**

Jesus, Son of God, as we seek to follow your ways for our lives, help us to obey your promptings

**Lord, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, fill us this New Year, 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 OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, in the birth of your  
Son you have poured on us the  
new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your  
love: help us to walk in his light  
and dwell in his love that we may  
know the fullness of his joy; who  
is alive and reigns with you, in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. **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**

**ISAIAH 61:10-62:3 - READ BY  
NORMA CROWE**

I delight greatly in the Lord;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with gar-  
ments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of his  
righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head  
like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with  
her jewels.

For as the soil makes the sprout  
come up

and a garden causes seeds to  
grow,

so the Sovereign Lord will make  
righteousness

and praise spring up before all na-  
tions.

For Zion's sake I will not keep si-  
lent,

for Jerusalem's sake I will not re-  
main quiet,

till her vindication shines out like

the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.  
The nations will see your vindication,  
and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.  
You will be a crown of splendour  
in the Lord's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **CAROL NO 10**

#### **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

#### **R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

#### **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

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

### **CAROL NO 11**

#### REFLECTION

#### WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

*We stand to say:*

#### 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION  
LED BY JANE COOPER

*(Please Sit/kneel)*

Everlasting God, at the eve of a New Year we may find ourselves apprehensive for what the New Year might bring. Reassure us with your loving presence that whatever we might experience in the coming twelve months will not be more than we can bear and that you will never be more than a prayer away from us. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God we raise before you our Church here in Hawkhurst. We lay before you our plans, our hopes and the problems that we might face. Constantly remind us that in our church, results are never measured in terms of winners and losers but in how much our activities glorify your name and bring your son Jesus Christ closer to others. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, help us to know and to understand what it means and what it takes to make disciples and so help to transform the world. May the New year bring peace to those parts of the world where it has been absent for far too long especially in Ukraine, Gaza and Israel.

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

Father God, as we reach out into the community through our worship and social activities, inspire us and enhance our creativity, as

we seek to develop and fund the ministries of our chaplaincy and draw others in to know and love your ways. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the sick in their hour of need especially if the New Year fills them with doubts and fears. May they be aware of your presence holding them and encouraging them towards healing and wholeness. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker and Brian Elliott.

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

Merciful God as we remember before you those who will journey into this New Year we thank you for the gift of hope beyond death that you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son.

We pray for: John Hunt, recently departed, and for those whose minds 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, Nancy Bennett, Charles Newcombe, Gerald Larkin, Ignace van Kan,

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

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new and so we thank you for this past year and the New Year ahead, for all the potential it holds. Move us every single morning throughout 2024 to look forward to the future with hope and to give you thanks for the wonders of your creation and the wonderful gifts that you have given to us.

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 8**

*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 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**

*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 in the highest.**

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

**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.**

*(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**

We sing together THE AGNUS DEI

**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: Kent Harries and Peggy Stone

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,

he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;

be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, 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, and take the Lord's blessing with you all the days of your life.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### HYMN

God is working this purpose out,  
as year succeeds to year;  
God is working this purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near;  
nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be:  
when the earth shall be filled with  
the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,  
where human feet have trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers  
goes forth the voice of God:  
"Give ear to me, ye continents,  
ye isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled with  
the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea."

Let us go forth in the strength of  
God,  
with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
that the light of the glorious gospel  
of truth  
may shine throughout the world.  
Let us all fight with sorrow and sin  
to set the captives free,  
that the earth may be filled with  
the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth  
unless God blesses the deed.  
Vainly we hope for the harvest-  
tide  
till God gives life to the seed.  
Yet nearer and nearer draws the  
time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with  
the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

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 de-  
parted through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
**And rise in glory. Amen.**

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**We sit to listen to the Organ  
Voluntary**

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**Please do say a prayer at the  
Crib for peace and reconcilia-  
tion in our world.**

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

## **NOTICES**

### **CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS**

Sightsavers International: £370

Medicins Sans Frontieres:  
£1,180

### **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**