

St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst in the Diocese of
Canterbury
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
- 21.1.2024

The Sidespeople today are Diana
Hunt and Diana Ringer

The Zoom details or this service
are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

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

Welcome

Entrance Hymn

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to
shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no
more.

To him shall endless prayer be
made,
and praises throng to crown his
head.

His name like sweet perfume shall
rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every
tongue

dwell on his love with sweetest
song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he
reigns:

the prisoners leap to lose their
chains,

the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

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

Seek the Lord while he may be
found,

Call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways

And the unrighteous their thoughts.

Turn back to the Lord, who will have mercy;

To our God who will richly pardon.

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

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our

weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.**

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 Anne Wheelhouse

A reading from the book Genesis Chapter 14 beginning at the 17th verse

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who

delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of
the kingdom
and cured every disease among
the people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to John Chapter Two
beginning at the first verse

Glorify to Christ our Lord

On the third day a wedding took
place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus'
mother was there, and Jesus and
his disciples had also been invited
to the wedding. When the wine
was gone, Jesus' mother said to
him, "They have no more wine."
"Woman, why do you involve
me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has
not yet come." His mother said to
the servants, "Do whatever he
tells you." Nearby stood six stone
water jars, the kind used by the
Jews for ceremonial washing,
each holding from twenty to thirty
gallons. Jesus said to the serv-
ants, "Fill the jars with water"; so
they filled them to the brim. Then
he told them, "Now draw some out
and take it to the master of the
banquet." They did so, and the
master of the banquet tasted the
water that had been turned into

wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

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 Sarah Lindop

Almighty God, today finds us in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity; help us to listen to your voice still calling us to unity in our diversity. We pray for church leaders everywhere that they may work together and promote unity among Christians. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you made us to be one body and of one spirit and so we pray that we might establish friendly relationships among Jews, Christians and Muslims, and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred making our unity visible and bringing healing to the world. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for all who work for justice and solidarity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine, the Holy

Land and Peace for the Holy city of Jerusalem. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, as we remember the presence of your son Jesus Christ at the Wedding at Cana we pray for all we know who are preparing for marriage and those who are beginning their married life together. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends. We also pray for any we know amongst our families and friends who are experiencing marital problems that they may find a way forward through their present difficulties. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we raise before you this morning those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved. We especially pray for: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker, Brian Elliott. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for those who have departed this life and ask you, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore. We pray for John Hunt, Christian Jarvis-Read, Raymond John Collins, Nigel Lemon and those whose years' minds occur at this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Leila Wood.

Lord, in your Mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we prepare for the weeks ahead help us to remember that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us overcome our conflicts, our divisions and our self-seeking, and to be united to one another by the power the Holy Spirit.

In silence we bring to Almighty God our own particular prayers

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love.

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

The Peace Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse
each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about

with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and

made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship

you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. 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

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:
Alison Jones and Alison Parsons

Communion Hymn

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is that soul-refreshing
view
Of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I then enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But now I find an aching void,
The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee
mourn,
That drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,

Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy
throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with
God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for he is
gracious

His mercy endures for ever.

Almighty Father, whose Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of
the world: may your people, illu-
minated by your word and sacra-
ments, shine with the radiance of
his glory, that he may be known,
worshipped, and obeyed to the
ends of the earth; for he is alive
and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

**Father almighty we offer our-
selves to you as a living sacri-
fice 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**

Notices

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in
you the image of his glory and

gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing**Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation,
by water and the word.
From heav'n He came and sought
her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder,
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song!

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish,
is with her to the end;

though there be those that hate
her,
and false sons in her pale,
against the foe or traitor
she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

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.

**Organ Voluntary - Prelude in
C - Gibbons**

NOTICES

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

MR JOHN HUNT – The Thanks-giving Service for John will take place at St Laurence on Friday 26th January at 2.30 p.m.

BOWLES LODGE – Please join us on Wednesdays at 10 am.

The Sanctoral Cycle for the week ahead

21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622

25 The Conversion of Paul

26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul