

**HL** ST LAURENCE  
CHURCH  
THE PARISH EU-  
CHARIST

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
18TH FEBRUARY 2024**

Welcome to St Laurence, whether you regularly worship here or are here for the first time. If you have children, they are welcome to use the area at the back of the church under **Parental** supervision. There are toilet facilities at the back of the church

The Sides people today are:  
Judy Darkins and Diana Ringer

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**The Zoom details are:**

**Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCa**

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**Introit Hymn**

O worship the King all-glorious  
above,  
O gratefully sing his power and  
his love:  
our shield and defender, the  
Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour and  
girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his  
grace,

whose robe is the light, whose  
canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep  
thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings  
of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue  
can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in  
the light;  
it streams from the hills, it  
descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and  
the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble  
as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to  
fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how  
firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer,  
and Friend!

O measureless Might,  
unchangeable Love,  
whom angels delight to worship  
above!  
Your ransomed creation, with  
glory ablaze,  
in true adoration shall sing to your  
praise!

**We Gather**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

The Priest welcomes the congregation and introduces the theme of the Service.

(Silence is kept)

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**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.**

### **Prayer of Penitence**

The Priest introduces the Prayer of Penitence

My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

(Silence is kept)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed,**

**through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

We say:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

### **Collect of the Day**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we

are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

(Please sit)

Genesis 9:8-17

read by Sandra Dreyer

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark.

I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of

the covenant between me and the earth.

When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Gradual Hymn**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,

your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:

Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day..

### **The Gospel Reading**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

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.**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on

him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

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

### **Reflection**

**We Affirm Our Faith**  
We stand to say

**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 Peter Wyllie

Holy God, as we begin our Lenten journey, mindful of the temptation and suffering that your son Jesus Christ endured in the wilderness. We ask for you to strengthen us, as we find ourselves in the desert of human faults, failings and sinfulness.

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

Gracious God, we ask for your guidance in all that our church plans for the coming six weeks of Lent; For the Lenten events and for all special services to be held in our parish.

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

Creator God, your love reaches out to the boundaries our world, to the rich who have everything they need and the poor who have nothing except misery and oppression. We pray for all your people whoever they are, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances; that in their joy and sorrow, the knowledge of your presence might bring comfort, healing and restoration.

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

Father God, we pray against all areas of our society where good

food is wasted or disposed of unnecessarily when it could be used to relieve suffering. We thank you for the work of food banks and charities which support disadvantaged individuals and communities.

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

Loving God, we pray for all of those, dear to our hearts, who are ill or in any kind of need. We also give thanks for those on the road to recovery following illness, surgery or procedures, and for those whose only healing will come through death. We pray for: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

Merciful God, when death comes close to us through the loss of a family member or friend help us to remember them and rejoice in their fellowship, giving thanks for the way that, as their lives touched ours, so we were enriched by that relationship. We pray for Ray Wicks, Christian Jervis-Read, Raymond George Collins, Nigel Lemon, Helen Whitaker.

We remember those whose years mind falls at this time: William Crouch, Michael French, Charles Bladon, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jane Coleman, Michael Buss, Albert Collins, Victor Botha, Joan Maskell, Brian Kingcome, Martin Chubb, Desna Harries, Christobel Van der Hoeven, Leslie Corfield, Marjorie Addyman, Norman Sheldon, Christian Solari, Margaret Skeet, Doris Ringer, Jean King, David Weeks, Betty Hazel, Arthur Jeffery  
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, your love and forgiveness washes over us and astonishes us with generosity. May we go out from this time of worship today as people who enjoy complete forgiveness and a restored relationship with you and all those with whom we share our lives.

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

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.

### **Offertory Hymn:**

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water  
flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures  
grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of  
days,

thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy  
praise  
within thy house forever.

The bread and wine are placed on  
the altar.

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 our spiritual drink.

**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.**

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer Preface and then all say:

**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 say:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

At the End of the next 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.**

### **We Break Bread**

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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 say 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.**

### **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 as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

**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 are: Stephen and Rachael Ringer

### **Hymn During Communion:**

(Please remain seated)

We pray thee, heavenly Father,  
to hear us in thy love,  
and pour upon thy children  
the unction from above;  
that so in love abiding,  
from all defilement free,  
we may in pureness offer  
our Eucharist to thee.

Be thou our guide and helper,  
O Jesus Christ, we pray;

so may we well approach thee,  
if thou wilt be the Way:  
thou, very Truth, hast promised  
to help us in our strife,  
food of the weary pilgrim,  
eternal source of Life.

And thou, creator Spirit,  
look on us, we are thine;  
renew in us thy graces,  
upon our darkness shine;  
that, with thy benediction  
upon our souls outpoured,  
we may receive in gladness  
the body of the Lord.

O Trinity of Persons,  
O Unity most high,  
on thee alone relying  
thy servants would draw nigh:  
unworthy in our weakness,  
on thee our hope is stayed,  
and blessed by thy forgiveness  
we will not be afraid.

### **Prayers After Communion**

Lord God, you have renewed us  
with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith, increase  
our hope, and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him  
who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your  
mouth; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for  
feeding us with the body and  
blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our  
souls and bodies to be a living  
sacrifice. Send us out in the  
power of your Spirit to live and  
work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

### **We Go In Christ's Peace**

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.**

Please sit for the Notices

### **Recessional Hymn:**

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed  
us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er  
us: all our weakness thou dost  
know;  
thou didst tread this earth before  
us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

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 for the Organ Voluntary

## **AT YOUR SERVICE**

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Rodney  
Dreyer 01580 754459

### Churchwardens:

Alison Jones  
01580 755705  
Liz Hatcher  
01580 712099

### Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill  
01580 753817

### Safeguarding

Mrs Jane Cooper  
07825044877

## The Sanctoral Cycle for the Week ahead

23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155

27 George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633

## NOTICES

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

**SERVERS WANTED** – if you are interested in becoming an Altar server. Please speak to Mrs Rachel Elliott or Father Rodney who will explain more about the role.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-**

On Friday 1st March St. Laurence is hosting World Day of Prayer 2024. 12.00 – 2.00pm. Service prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. ‘I beg you, bear with one another in love’.

12.00 Lenten lunch

12.30 Short talk (speaker tbc)

1.15 Service

Lunch will be served at 12 noon followed by a talk on Palestine and a service, ending at 2pm.

Please support this ecumenical event.

Offers of help with food are welcomed. Please sign up.

Norma Crowe.