

SIDESMEN - If you would like to take part in sidesmen duties, please tell Ali and we will add your name to the next duty rota which commences in May,

LENT LUNCHESES - Organised by Hawkhurst Churches Together 12 Noon to 1.30pm

Friday 8th March - St Barnabas Church

Friday 15th March - The Baptist Church

Friday 22nd March - The Methodist Church

Good Friday 29th March - All Churches involved in the provision of meals.

All lunches will be held at the Baptist Church Hall, Cranbrook Rd, Hawkhurst.

(There is a free car park behind the church.)

29th March Good Friday lunch will take place from 12.00 after the Walk of Witness, which starts at 11:30am at St Barnabas Church.

Donations from all lunches to be shared between: Seaview Charity for the homeless in Hastings & St Leonards; & Dunks Educational Charity, Hawkhurst.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Rodney Dreyer 01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones 01580 755705
Mrs. Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Organists:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill 01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper 07825044877



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B
25.2.2024



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sides people today are:
Charles and Sarah Vernede

Hymn

Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,

his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely,
the broken and breaking, the tired
and aching, who long for the nour-
ishment found at your feast.

Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the
wishing and wondering, the puzzled
and pondering, who long for your
company, found at your feast.

Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure
and superior the never inferior who
long for the levelling found at your
feast.

Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the stir-
rers, the shakers, the kind laughter

makers who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes; to meet, to eat, to be given a seat; be joined to the vine; be offered new wine; become like the least; be found at the feast

Gather us in!

Confession

Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become your chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit. I take the cross upon me, over the tablet of my heart, and I beseech the living God of the universe, may the light of lights come to my dark hard heart so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.

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

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to

their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading read by Clive Dewing

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was

The heavenly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty,
and endless rest.

There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry
"Almighty King!

Who was, and is, the same,
and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM,
we worship 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
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

We sit to listen to the Organ
Voluntary

The Sanctoral Cycle for the week ahead

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.

Post Communion Collect

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens

of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Benediction

On our heads and our homes

The blessing of God

In our coming and going

The Peace of God

In our life and believing

The Love of God

Be with us all

Today until the end of time. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ draw you to humility and worship, and bring you to see God at work; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Notices

Hymn

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days,
and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM!
by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.

The great I AM has sworn;
I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,
to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face;
I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace
forevermore.

about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;

the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand

by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

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!
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

The Lord be with you

And also with you

A reading from the Holy gospel according to Mark, Chapter eight beginning at the thirty first verse

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

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

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, the Lord of the universe, as we have been taught.

And His son Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father in a way that baffles description. He was made man, defeated death and received into heaven by the Father and given power over all names, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds.

He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life.

We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church led by Robin Crowther

Loving God as you revealed yourself to Abraham in ancient days, reveal yourself to in this present age. Make us into a faithful people ready to believe your promises and follow you wherever you will lead us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, during this period of Lent, give us a new awareness of your presence in our Church here and teach us the humility to accept that all our gifts come from you to be used in the service of your people and in the spreading of the Gospel. Live in us through all of our small acts of sacrifice and help us be cheerful in our fasting and giving as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God your son walked upon earth and taught us to seek your hand in the beauty and wonders of earth and sea and the sky. We so often see too much of the evidence of poor stewardship in our surroundings and it is easy to forget that the world belongs to you. Help

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love:

holy, holy, holy, holy.

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 Distribution of Communion

The Chalice Bearers are: Felicity Robinson and Sandra Dreyer

Communion Hymn

Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully
we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:

sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
thy Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right for you made us, and before you made us you made the world we inhabit, and before the world you made the eternal home in which, through Christ we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:
holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,**

**come and fill our hearts anew,
Holy Spirit.**

**And we lift our voice before you
as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.**

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough. Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share. **Amen.**

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'. Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.' He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

us to recognise your presence in our modern world, and help us to use more wisely the resources of the earth.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we give you thanks for our Local and Church community here in Hawkhurst: for our neighbours, for our friends and for the people around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. We pray for those who are old and lonely, those isolated because of ill-health, and those who find it difficult to be accepted. Show us all that we can do to help those around us and teach us to be good neighbours and true friends.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for the sick and the suffering. For those undergoing treatments and surgery; for those convalescing and those who are recovered. We pray that through their suffering they may all experience the light of the Gospel. We pray for: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

We pray too for all who administer to the sick and infirm; for those working in our local health centres and hospitals; for those working in care homes and those who daily give help at home; for all of our local charities and Help organisations.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God be near to all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. We raise before you those who have died in the faith of Christ and for those whose belief is known only to you. Lord, we thank you for those who have travelled before us on the way of the cross and are now at peace in your eternal presence. We pray for: Helen Whitaker, Ray Wicks, recently departed, and those whose years' minds occur at this month: 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**

Faithful God as we go out into the world today help us to choose

faithfulness before popularity, service before fame and sacrifice before power. Give us the strength to reject temptation through our Lenten journey and beyond it throughout the rest of our lives.

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

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself in order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion by praying His words:

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

Hymn

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee

pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, and earth and the space between them is thin. Distance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those bounded by time, those blessed by eternity. Let heaven be glad;

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the Church above and below is one. Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and all the Mary's, the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, one with us on the other side.

Let heaven be glad

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present. The lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the

Dove makes her resting place among us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever. **Amen!**

The Invitation

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pleaded the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people; welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him, must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when God can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in

the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.

Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord.

Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.

All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God