



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST**

**SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT- YEAR

B

17.3.2024

The sidesmen are Ali Jones and
Jean Elliott



Th Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn (Please stand if you are
able)

Glory be to Jesus,
who in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood
from his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal
in that blood I find;
blest be his compassion,
infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages
be the precious stream
which from endless torment

did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance
pleaded to the skies,
but the blood of Jesus
for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting
lifts its praise on high,
angel hosts rejoicing
make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices,
swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder
praise the precious blood!

Welcome/The Gathering

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

Gather us in

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

Gather us in

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

Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, 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

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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**

First Reading read by Julian Van Kan

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

My song is love unknown—
my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh
and die?

He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend in-
deed,
who at my need His life did
spend!

Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and
cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run;
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst Him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save;

the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
that He His foes from thence
might free.

In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His
home;
but mine the tomb wherein He
lay.

Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose
sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Listen to the good news pro-
claimed in the gospel of St. John
Glory to Christ our Lord

Some Greeks who had come to
worship at the Passover Feast
came to Philip, who was from
Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked
him, "Sir, we would like to see Je-
sus." Philip went and told An-
drew; then Andrew and Philip
went and told Jesus. Jesus an-
swered them, "The hour has

come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me.

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

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 Sarah Lindop

Almighty God, help us to thirst for you, first and foremost in our lives, and recognise that your

loving-kindness is better than life itself. Bearing this amazing love in mind we raise our hearts and voices to proclaim and sing your praise.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Faithful God, we pray for the Church, that through its prayers, actions and public statements it may continue to work towards a world where all are free from the pain of hunger and the terror of war. Help us to be true disciples of Jesus, living the gospel and bringing social change in an unjust world. Give us courage to challenge unfair trade systems and pray for those who have the power to make far-reaching decisions affecting the world's poor.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for world leaders, that they may be inspired to work together to tackle the causes of poverty, injustice and ignorance that lead to such horrendous violence as seen in Ukraine, and to use their power, not for their own glory but

for the good of all, and peace for all, whatever the creed, colour or gender.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, we pray for ourselves, that we may have the courage to be witnesses to the power of sharing and to the values of global community. As we eat and drink, help us to pray for those who have laboured to bring the food to our table. Fill our hearts with compassion for our brothers and sisters around the world, so that we acknowledge our common humanity and dignity.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, help us to love more generously and speak up more loudly for those who are treated unjustly. We pray for people in our own community – those who live on very little, children who are vulnerable and older people who are lonely. We pray for those who are in unwell and for those who are of special concern to us at this time: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone,

Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, JohnTanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Brian Elliott and Les Dickson.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful Lord, your son Jesus Christ wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Be with us in our mourning as we pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth and for all those who have died and now rejoice in the fullness of eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for those recently departed: Richard Piper

We pray for those whose Years' Mind occur this month: Norma Fogarty, Spencer Charles Edwards, Francis Ann Vaughan, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Louise Bembridge, Brian Louis Piper, William Bennett, Joseph William Ringer, Mandy Jones, Kitty Weguelin, William David Potter, Freda Mary Griffin, Michael William Raymond Corp, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian

Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe, Barney Underwood

As we go out into the world help us to live in the warmth of God's love, to listen to the cries of hurt, to speak words of compassion and to know that we are surrounded by the eternal God.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

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 (Please stand if you are able)

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows and answer your prayerfulness,
guiding your steps in the way that is true.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is his name.

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 Marys, 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
**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 prom-
ise 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.

**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.**

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
**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 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

The Chalice bearers today are:
Sandra Dreyer and Felicity
Robinson

Communion Anthem Pilgrims Hymn - Stephen Paulus

Communion Hymn

An Upper Room did our Lord
prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us
down,
he by his Cross shall lift us up.
And after Supper he washed
their feet

for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made
complete –
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in
peace,
he loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's
house
he will be there as Lord and Host.

Post Communion Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you have
taught us that what we do for the
least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you: give us the
will to be the servant of others as
you were the servant of all, and
gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and
for ever. **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 our-
selves 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 common-
wealth 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

Christ give you grace to grow in
holiness, to deny yourselves,
take up your cross, and follow
him; and the blessing of God al-
mighty, the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be among you

and remain with you always.
Amen

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
determined only you to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task your wisdom has assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.

May I find you at my right hand;
your eyes see truly what I do.
I labour on at your command
and offer all my works to you.

Give me to bear your easy yoke
and ev'ry moment watch and pray
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day.

For thee I delightfully employ
whate'er you in grace have giv'n:
I run my daily course with joy
and closely walk with you to heav'n.

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.**

Please sit for the Organ Voluntary: Pange Lingua arr. Archer

NOTICES

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

EASTER LILIES – if you would like to purchase an Easter lily in remembrance of a loved one, please place cash or a cheque in an envelope and clearly print the person's name on the front of the envelope. Please give the envelopes to the Churchwardens (Ali or Liz) or post them in the wall safe inside the church where they will be collected.

A minimum donation of £4.50 per lily is requested. Cash is preferred. If you wish to pay by cheque it should be payable to ***St Laurence Flower Guild***. Last date for orders is Palm Sunday is March 24th

MONDAY MARCH 18th

10 – 12.30 p.m.

Working Party to prepare for Easter.

If you can help with this, please sign the list at the back of the church or speak to Sandra.

ELECTORAL ROLL – application forms are available on the table at the back of the church. Please return to Stephen Ringer who is the Electoral Roll Officer.

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