



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

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-  
YEAR B  
12.5.2024**



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The Zoom  
this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

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details for

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The Sidesmen are Diana Hunt and  
Ali Jones

**Hymn** (Please stand if you are  
able)

You servants of God, your Master  
proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful  
name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus ex-  
tol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules  
over all.

God rules in the height, almighty to  
save;  
though hid from our sight, his pres-  
ence we have;  
the great congregation his triumph  
shall sing,

ascribing salvation to Jesus our  
King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the  
throne!"

let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;  
the praises of Jesus the angels pro-  
claim,  
fall down on their faces and worship  
the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his  
right:

all glory and power, all wisdom and  
might,  
all honour and blessing with angels  
above  
and thanks never ceasing for infinite  
love.

Alleluia, Christ is risen

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia**

**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 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

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom

in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 Sandra Dreyer

#### A Reading from the Book of Acts

#### Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers —there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place. He said, “My brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: May another take his office. “Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

So they proposed two, Judas called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of

these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”

Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

## Thanks be to God

### Gradual Hymn:

It is a thing most wonderful,  
almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come  
from heav'n,  
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:  
He chose a poor and humble lot,  
and wept and toiled and mourned  
and died  
for love of those who loved Him not.

I cannot tell how He could love  
a child so weak and full of sin;  
His love must be most wonderful  
if He could die my love to win.

I sometimes think about the cross,  
and shut my eyes, and try to see  
the cruel nails and crown of thorns,  
and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see Him die,  
I could but see a little part  
of that great love which, like a fire,  
is always burning in His heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;

but 'tis more wonderful to see  
my love for Him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
and I will love Thee more and more,  
until I see Thee as Thou art.

### Gospel

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

A reading from the gospel according  
to John

### **Glory to Christ our Lord**

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus  
prayed saying: “Holy Father, keep  
them in your name that you have  
given me, so that they may be one  
just as we are one. When I was with  
them I protected them in your name  
that you gave me, and I guarded  
them, and none of them was lost  
except the son of destruction,  
in order that the Scripture might be  
fulfilled.

But now I am coming to you.

I speak this in the world  
so that they may share my joy com-  
pletely. I gave them your word, and  
the world hated them, because they  
do not belong to the world any more  
than I belong to the world.

I do not ask that you take them out  
of the world but that you keep them  
from the evil one. They do not be-  
long to the world any more than I be-  
long to the world. Consecrate them  
in the truth. Your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

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 Stephen Ringer

Almighty God, may our prayers ascend to you just as Jesus Christ, your son, was taken up to heaven. As we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus let it inspire in us feelings of joy and hope rather than fear and separation as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

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

Everlasting God we pray for our Bishops, Justin and Rose and all Church Leaders; for all the clergy, readers and laity who serve this Church. May the Lord bless us and guide us in our work as we move forward together to live the Gospel in the parish

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

Creator God, we pray for our troubled world its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are abused because of Christ. May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong and that the suffering won't last forever.

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

Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.

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

Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.

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

Loving God, we pray for all those who are sick; guide them and strengthen them through their illness. We pray also for those who care for the sick, those engaged in the caring professions and for family members who look after loved ones and especially for children who care for parents.

We pray for: Rebecca McQuillan, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash,

David Winstone, Jill Fitzpatrick, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Les Dickson, Irene Bow, Hannah and Chloe.

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

Loving God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm those who are bereaved, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along the journey of death and resurrection.

We pray for those recently departed:  
Vernon Selman

We remember those whose years' mind occur this month: Simon Edwards, Davis Cutmore, Stella Keaney, Alfred Scrivener, Anthony Smith, Sheila Pope, Thomas Weguelin, Henry Husey, Joscelyn Thompson, Grace Parsons, Albert Richard, Mark Webber, Heather Murphy, David Wood, Robert Botha, Vera Boulton, Ione McEwen, Sylvia Parkinson, David Barter, Barbara Barter

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

Lord our God, you have called us to follow you. As you hear our prayers make us faithful in responding to your call.

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

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

The heav'ns are not too high,  
God's praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
God's praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

The church with psalms must shout:  
no door can keep them out.

But, more than all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,

"My God and King!"

### 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

**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.

**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 today are:**

Peggy Stone and Charles Vernede

**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 splendor 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  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place

**Post Communion Collect**

**Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has**

sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; 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**

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;\_and the blessing ...

### **Hymn**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish as leaves  
on the tree,  
and wither and perish but naught  
changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of  
light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling  
their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help  
us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth  
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 listen to the Organ Voluntary:**

Couperin - Messe Paroisses  
**NOTICES**

**Sacristy Team** – brief meeting today with your coffee, to decide a date to meet on a Saturday to discuss all that this entails. Sacristan duties include setting up church on

a Saturday evening for Sunday services, locking the church, and also clearing up on Sunday after the service, as well as the care and laundering of the church linen. Speak to Sandra for more details. 754459

**Parish Breakfast** - Our next Parish Breakfast will take place on Saturday 25th May at 9am.

Title: 'Sing unto the Lord - why we sing the hymns we do'

Dr. Charlotte O'Neill, our organist will be the speaker.

Please sign the list if you are hoping to attend.

**Date for your diary Saturday 8th June** - Hawkhurst Village Summer Fête. We will once again run the Tea Stall at the fête and we will need volunteers to run the stall as well as contributions of cake. A sign up sheet is available. Please sign if you are able to help or to donate cakes.

**Bottle Tombola** - please start collecting bottles for the tombola at the fete. It will be run by the church choir,

**Bowles Lodge** – every Wednesday at 10am.

**Next week** is Loaves and Fishes Sunday. Non - Perishable food is gratefully received for the parish Food bank.

## **AT YOUR SERVICE**

### **Vicar:**

The Revd. Canon Rodney Dreyer -  
01580 754459

### **Churchwardens:**

Mr Julian van Kan – 01580 752594  
Miss Claire Roberts – 01580  
754374

### **Organist:**

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill - 01580  
753817

### **Safeguarding:**

Mrs Jane Cooper -  
07825044877