

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY **changed lives - Changing lives**

St. Laurence Parish Church **Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist** **Service.**

5.1.2025 - The Feast of the **Epiphany**

THE ZOOM DETAILS FOR THIS SERVICE ARE:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sideman are: Diana Ringer
and Ali Jones

Hymn:

A great and mighty wonder,
a glorious mystery:
a virgin bears an infant
who veils his deity.

Refrain:

*Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
and peace to all the earth!"*

The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high,
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.

[Refrain]

While thus they sing your
monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, O vales and mountains,

and oceans, clap your hands.

[Refrain]

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord.

[Refrain]

All idols then shall perish
and Satan's lying cease,
and Christ shall raise his sceptre,
decreeing endless peace.

[Refrain]

Welcome: Today we hear again
the story of the wise men who
followed a star and came to visit
Jesus. In our act of worship
today, we will reflect more about
how we follow God in our daily
lives.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe!
From the rising of the sun to its
setting your name is proclaimed in
all the world.

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

We confess our sins

As we kneel with the Magi before
the new-born Christ child, we
open our hearts in penitence and
faith. *Silence is kept*

Christ came in humility to share
our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with Good News for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

My friends in Christ, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to blind us but to save us. Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. In his name we declare: **Our sins are forgiven! Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Gloria in Excelsis

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God

Opening prayer: O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.**

**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: Isaiah 60:1-6
read by Jane Cooper**

Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem!
Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the
peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining
radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of
their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what
you see,
your heart shall throb and
overflow,
for the riches of the sea shall be
emptied out before you,
the wealth of nations shall be
brought to you.

Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and
Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the
LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Brightest and best of the stars of
the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend
us your aid!

Star of the east, the horizon
adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer
is laid.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly
devotion,
Fragrance of Edom, and offerings
divine?

Gems of the mountain, and pearls
of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from
the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample
oblation;

Vainly with gifts would his favour
secure:

Richer by far is the heart's
adoration;

Dearer to God are the prayers of
the poor.

The Lord be with you

And Also with you

Listen to the good news
proclaimed in the Gospel
according to Matthew

Glory to Christ our Lord

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in
Bethlehem in Judea, during the
time of King Herod, Magi from the
east came to Jerusalem and
asked, "Where is the one who has
been born king of the Jews? We
saw his star when it rose and have
come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to

Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to Christ our Lord

Hymn:

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom Heav'n and Earth
adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not
down;
There forever may we sing

Alleluias to our King.

Gospel reflection

We sing:

Father, we adore you,
Lay our lives before you,
How we love you!

Jesus, we adore you,
Lay our lives before you,
How we love you!

Spirit, we adore you,
Lay our lives before you,
How we love you!

Intercessions led by Sandra Dreyer

God guides us and shows the right way to live our lives, and so as the family of God gathered here today, we pray to God together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may shine like the star, leading people to Jesus, and spread God's message of justice, peace and love. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all the leaders in the world: that they may be moved not to think of their own power and wealth but to rule wisely and do what is right for all their people. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those people around the world who may be undertaking long journeys, or who are in

need of guidance: that they may find their way to a place of safety, welcome and peace. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may always be open to following God in our lives, in both our actions and our words. Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer

We pray for the sick and the suffering, that they may know God's healing touch and love in their lives - Rebecca McQuillan, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Les Dickson, Irene Bow, David Colquhoun, Brian Elliott, Hannah, Chloe, Emma, Andrew Eaton, Matilda, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Adair Robson and Matt Lord, in your mercy.... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have died in the faith and fear of God, those recently departed:

and those whose years' mind occur at this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline

Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Leila Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Carole Williamson, Jean French, Laurence Wield, Michael Haggart, Ronald Martin, Shirley Ferguson, Penny Tweedie, Richard Phillips, Colin Attwood, Fred Bull, Nancy Watson, Victor Potter, Amanda Guile, Patrick Roberts, Beth Ingram – Cordrey, Helen Whitaker
Lord, in your mercy.... **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of gift-giving.
Amen.

The Peace

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new. The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom Heaven and Earth
adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not
down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

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.

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 him thanks and praise

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

We give thanks for all that God has done for us.

God the Father created the heavens, the earth and everything in them; and created us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us together as the people of God.

Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to worship this God who loves.

We sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit/kneel

We praise you Father that before Jesus our Saviour suffered and died, he gave us this holy meal to share and told us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing:

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating

and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **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 because we all share in one Bread

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.

This 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

For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

The Chalice Bearers are: Alison Parsons and Judy Darkins

Communion Hymn

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 in-
cense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him the Lord is
his name.

Post-Communion Prayer: Lord
God, the bright splendour whom
the nations seek: may we who
with the wise men have been
drawn by your light discern the
glory of your presence in your
Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Jesus Christ was born of the Vir-
gin Mary
Revealed in his glory
Worshipped by angels and the
wise men:
Proclaimed among the nations;
Raised to the highest heavens:
Believed in throughout the world.
Blessed be God, our strength and
our salvation:
Now and for ever. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father keep you in
all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all
your ways.
May God the Spirit bring you heal-
ing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all
darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and
light, now and always. **Amen**

Hymn:

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,*

*westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *[Refrain]*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
[Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and
skies. *[Refrain]*

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** - Wie schoen leuchtet
der Morgenstern - Buxtehude

A message from Fr. Rodney

***Thank you everyone for
your cards and gifts to me
for my birthday and to us for
Christmas. It is much appreciated.***

***Also, on your behalf, Fr.
Rodney would like to express
his profound thanks
to all who made our Christmas
celebrations - from the
Village Carol Service, the
Crib Service, and the Christmas
Eucharists - so special
and memorable. A special***

thanks to our organists, musicians and choir for your ministry during this time.

NOTICES

Compline – The next celebration of compline will be on Wednesday January 8th at 6.00pm.

The zoom link is:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1Uca

Please feel free to join us if you can.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwarden:
Claire Roberts 01580 754374

Deputy Churchwarden
Lydeke Klein 01580 493732

Churchwarden's Assistants
Ali Jones 01580 755705
Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825 044877