

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist
Service.
12.1.2025 - The Baptism of
Christ

The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

The Sidesmen today are: Kate
Lagden and Diana Hunt

Welcome

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and
dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

Almighty God to whom all hearts
are open all desires known and
from whom no secrets are hid
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**

Penitence

In silence let us call to mind our
sins against God, others and
ourselves.. We confess together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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

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 - Acts 8:14-17 read by Bob Ash

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn:

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.

His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every
tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest
song,

and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he
reigns:

the prisoners leap to lose their
chains,

the weary find eternal rest,

and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

The heavens were opened and
the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, listen to
him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to Luke.
(Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

Glory to you, O Lord.

The people were filled with
expectation, and all were asking
in their hearts

whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying, "I
am baptising you with water, but
one mightier than I is coming. I am
not worthy to loosen the thongs of

his sandals. He will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been
baptised and Jesus also had been
baptised and was praying,
heaven was opened and the Holy
Spirit descended upon him in
bodily form like a dove. And a
voice came from heaven, "You
are my beloved Son; with you I am
well pleased."

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

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

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.

The Prayers of the Church - led by Rachel Elliott

Lord, as we are all united in baptism, we ask you to help us break down the barriers that keep us apart. As all things are made new in your son, renew your Church, we pray, that we may gather new strength for the mission that you have charged us with of spreading the good news.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord, as your Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters, you

brought light into the world. Look now, we pray, on the hidden corners of our world and lighten the darkness of ignorance and error, that the world may be truly free. Breathe something of your wisdom and compassion into the souls of those who have authority over others, that they may exercise it wisely.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Pour forth, O Lord, your love upon this land and its people as we try to follow the example of your Son in whom you were well-pleased. We continue to pray for Charles our King and all members of the Royal family. Daily renew in us the desire to serve you and our neighbour and help us to overcome all pettiness in our dealings with each other.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Pour forth your blessing on all members of King Charles and every member of the Royal family. We pray for all those who serve us in national and local government.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord, look with pity we pray on those whose lives are bruised, whose hopes are quenched. We pray for all those suffer. Help them to feel the reality of your wonderful promise that you will be a constant presence to us through fire and flood, and that we shall not be overwhelmed since you are with us always, even unto the end of the world. We pray for: 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 and Matt.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We commend to your love those who, washed in the water of baptism, were close to you in this life and are now one with you in the life eternal. May they rest in your love and the life of the Holy Spirit. We pray for those recently departed.

And all those whose years' mind occur 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, Hylida Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Leila Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Carole Williamson, Jean French, Laurence Wield, Michael Haggard, 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, Clifford Winteringham, Colin Norton-Smith and Beverley Chard.

Lord, as you have called us, make us worthy of our calling: in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

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

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

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 thy burden of
carefulness:

high on his heart he will bear it for
thee,

comfort thy sorrows, and answer
thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for
thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the
slenderness

of the poor wealth thou wouldst
reckon as thine:

truth in its beauty, and love in its
tenderness,

these are the offerings to lay on
his shrine.

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.

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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**It is right to give thanks and
praise**

The Vicar leads us in the proper preface for today, after which the congregation joins in saying together:

**Holy, 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.**

The Vicar continues with the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer ending with the words:

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are
one body**

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.

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.**

**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 chalice bearers today are:
Peter Hodges and Alison Jones

Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father,
Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song,
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed your self as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Father almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. And the blessing ...

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Hymn

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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.**

Retiring Organ Voluntary.

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

Daily Prayers for January are available on the Church website.

Bowles Lodge - the 10am. Wednesday Eucharist is at Bowles Lodge

Compline – We celebrate a compline service on zoom each Wednesday at 6.00pm. Please feel free to join us if you can. The zoom link is: Meeting ID: 457 244 0784 Passcode: 5i1UCa

Advent Giving Tree – The tree raised £484 for Sightsavers International. Thank you for your donations.

A Wildlife Haven is being created at St Laurence Church with a view to encouraging wildflowers, insects and birds. We are keen to make this a project in which the whole village can take part if they wish. If you would like to help in any way or know somebody that may be interested, please join us for coffee and cake on **Saturday 1st February** from 10am onwards.

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

Collection and Giving

A collection will be taken during this service. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer. Also you may support the work of St Laurence Church by donating at the collection box or the online terminal at the exit. Additionally you may give to St Laurence Church via the QR code which can be found on our website: www.stlaurencechurch-hawkhurst.org under the *Welcome* tab and through a link under *Giving*.