



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE
THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
16.2.2025

LOAVES AND FISHES SUNDAY



The Zoom
this

details for
service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The Sidesmen today are: Judy
Darkins and Jean Elliott

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

To God be the glory, great things he
has done!
So loved he the world that he gave
us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement
for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may
go in.

Refrain:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus
the Son*

*and give him the glory, great things
he has done!*

Great things he has taught us, great
things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus
the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will
be
our joy and our wonder, when Jesus
we see. *[Refrain]*

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 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

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts

may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 Jeremiah 17:5-8
read by Stephen Crowe

Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season but stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth. Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the water that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age; your faithfulness is written on history's open page. Our fathers owned your goodness, and we their deeds record; and both to this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord!

Your heralds brought the gospel
to greatest and the least;
they summoned men and women
to share the great King's feast.
And this was all their teaching
in ev'ry deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

Your mercy will not fail us
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us
the victory shall be won.
And then by earth and heaven
your name shall be adored;
and this shall be our anthem:
one church, one faith, one Lord!

The Lord be with you
And also with you

A reading from the gospel
according to Luke Chapter 6,
beginning at verse 17.

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus came down with the Twelve
and stood on a stretch of level
ground with a great crowd of his
disciples
and a large number of the people
from all Judea and Jerusalem and
the coastal region of Tyre and
Sidon. And raising his eyes toward
his disciples he said: "Blessed are
you who are poor, for the kingdom
of God is yours. Blessed are you
who are now hungry, for you will
be satisfied Blessed are you who

are now weeping, for you will
laugh. Blessed are you when people
hate you, and when they exclude
and insult you, and denounce your
name as evil on account of the Son
of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on
that day! Behold, your reward will
be great in heaven. For their
ancestors treated the prophets in the
same way. But woe to you who are
rich, for you have received your
consolation. Woe to you who are
filled now, for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now, for you
will grieve and weep. Woe to you when
all speak well of you, for their
ancestors treated the false prophets
in this way."

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 the Vicar

In peace, in the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the people of God throughout the world; for Rose our Bishop and for all who minister in the Church of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For Pope Francis, for the leaders of the Orthodox Churches, and those of the Reformed Churches, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For all those of other faiths, and for those whose faith is known to God alone, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For all engaged in the missionary work of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the persecuted and their persecutors, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the Church suffering under oppressive regimes, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For ... *our special intentions which pray for in the silence of our hearts.....* let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For Charles our King, and his Government and for wisdom in all in authority, guidance in ways of justice and peace and that all may honour one another and serve the common good. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

That we may reverence the earth as God's creation, and may use its resources rightly in the service of others and God's glory. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the needs of the world which lie closest to our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For those whose lives are closely linked to ours, and for those who have asked for our prayers, that we may serve Christ in them. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For those who seek God but cannot name God, for the indifferent and those who reject God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For all who travel by water and by air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the sick and the suffering and those in special need 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, Matt, Judy Scanlan and Val Manser.

..... Let us pray to the the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the recently departed:

Ken Weatherley, Janet Chitham, Michael Barrass and those who's years mind occur 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, Barney Underwood. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For ourselves that we may pray without ceasing, asking God to guide us to ask for what will profit us for eternity, and for those things that will bring peace to God's world, and wholeness to God's creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Let us pray that the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, and let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God

To you O Lord

A time of silence is kept

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be most expedient for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

For you are gracious O God, lover of all, and we give glory to you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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)

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be

filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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 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:

Felicity Robinson and Peggy Stone

Communion Hymn

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus, may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.

Post Communion Collect

Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, 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 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.

Notices

The Blessing

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. And the blessing

...

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and
inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

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:
Pani Angelicus - Grimaldi

Notices

Service of Choral Evensong – will
take place **TODAY** at 4 p.m.

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](http://www.stlaurencechurch-hawkhurst.org) under the *Welcome*
tab and through a link under *Giving*.

Peal of Bells – on Wednesday 26th
February at 10.30 a.m. a group of
bellringers will be ringing the St
Laurence bells for a peal attempt.

Electoral Roll and Parish

Consent form. - Under the Church
Representation Rules a new Church
Electoral Roll is being prepared this
year. Every person who wishes to
have his or her name entered on the
new Roll, **whether it is entered on
the present Roll or not**, is
requested to apply for enrolment
not later than 10th April 2025.

Forms are available on the table by
the door. Please hand completed
forms to Stephen Ringer, leave
them in the Office or place them in
the box on the table.

We are taking this opportunity to
update e mail addresses and
permission to publicise your e mail
address on rotas etc. Please leave
completed consent forms in the

Office or place them in the box on the table.

The Next Parish Breakfast will take place at 9.30am. the 1st March. Our speaker will be the Revd. Dr. Stephen Need. The title of his talk is “Re-Imagining the Council of Nicea.” If you would like to come to it, please sign the list provided.

Daily Prayers for February are available on the Church website.

Bowles Lodge - the 10am. Wednesday Eucharist is at Bowles Lodge. Please join us.

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

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwarden and Safeguarding:
Claire Roberts 01580 754374

Deputy Churchwarden
Lydeke Klein 01580 493732

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Ali Jones 01580 755705
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Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817