

**[H] ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
16.3.2025**

**TODAY IS LOAVES AND FISHES
SUNDAY**



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sidemen today are:
Anne Wheelhouse and Diana
Ringer

Hymn (Please stand if you are
able)

Will your anchor hold in the storms
of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings
of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the
cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm re-
main?

We have an anchor that keeps the
soul
Stedfast and sure while the billows
roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot
move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Sav-
iour's love.

It is safely moored, 'twill the storm
withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Sav-
iour's hand;
And the cables passed from His
heart to mine,
Can defy the blast, through strength
divine.

It will firmly hold in the straits of
fear,
When the breakers have told the reef
is near;
Though the tempest rave and the
wild winds blow,
Not an angry wave shall our bark
o'erflow.

It will surely hold in the floods of
death,
When the waters cold chill our latest
breath;
On the rising tide it can never fail,
While our hopes abide within the
veil.

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

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 read by

Clive Dewing

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in

their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright.”

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I’ll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

Gospel - Luke 13:31-end

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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 Peter Wyllie

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, Les Dickson, Irene Bow, David Colquhoun, Brian Elliott, Hannah,

Chloe, Emma, Matilda, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Matt and Judy Scanlan.

Let us pray the the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

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

We pray for those recently departed:

Michael Barrass, Gillian Spurgeon, Archdeacon Michael Brotherton, Dylan Peter Craddock, Hilary Deller, David Gosnold, Roy Joseph Bryant.

We pray for those whose Years'

Mind occur this month:

Spencer Edwards, Brian Piper, Franciann Vaughan, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Bembridge, William Bennett, Joseph Ringer, Mandy Jones, Kitty Weguelin, William Potter, Freda Griffin, Michael Corp, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe, Claire Newland, Jean M.M. Hill.

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

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, be not ashamed!
Let not disgrace your spirit fill!
For God himself endured to die
Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, which gives you strength,
Which makes your trembling spirit brave:

'Twill guide you to a better home
And lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only they who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

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, gra-
cious 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 Chalice Bearers today are:
Stephen Ringer and Rachael Ringer

Communion Hymn

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come in to your kingdom.

Post Communion Collect

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Notices

Hymn

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to your God to order and provide;

In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend

Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! your God does undertake

To guide the future as he has the past;

Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul! when dearest friends depart

And all is darkened in the vale of tears,

Then shall you better know his love, his heart,

Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.

Be still, my soul! your Jesus can repay

From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on

When we shall be forever with the Lord,

When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,

All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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

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Notices

There is a Wave of Prayer Service

today in the Vicarage hosted by the St Laurence Church Mothers' Union Fellowship members. Please arrive for 3pm and the service will start promptly at 3.15pm to 4pm, followed by tea and cake.

Wave of Prayer, as the name implies, is that at any time during the 24 hour span, someone is praying. This is a movement that happens annually all over the world. We pray for our link Countries and members. Over a period of days 16th -18th March, the Mothers' Union of Canterbury Diocese will take part in

the Wave of Prayer movement. Services are held around the clock so that when one stops the next one starts. **Everyone welcome to join.** More details from Sandra, Peggy or Sylvia or telephone The Vicarage 01580 754459

Daily Prayers for March 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

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, cake and planting on Saturday 22nd March from 10am onwards. Please bring gardening tools.

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 Passover Supper is on Wednesday 16th April at 6.30pm in St Laurence Church. The cost is £10 per head. Please sign the list on the table if you'd like to come. Also please pick up an information sheet explaining the history and procedure.

Help wanted for Lent Lunches. Hawkhurst Churches Together will be holding Lent lunches every Friday during Lent from 12 noon to

1.30 pm. in the Baptist Church Hall on Cranbrook Road. (free car park behind the church). Everyone is welcome to attend.

St Laurence parishioners will be responsible for running the lunch on Fridays 21st March and 4th April. We would be grateful for a team of volunteers to help set up and serve lunches on each day and also for donations of soup, bread, butter, cheese and apples. If you are able to help on either day or to donate food. Please sign the list on the table at the side of the church.

The Lent Course continues with studies from the book *Pathways of Discipleship through Advent and Lent* by Stephen Need. The Lent study groups are run by Ann & Scott, Mary and Fr. Rodney.

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*.

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 30th March. There will be a special service at 10am.

The St Laurence 100 Club is another one of our fund-raising initiatives. The Club is open to those over 16 years of age and membership costs £10 a year. There is a monthly draw for three prizes, with first prize being £20, the second £10 and the third £5. Please speak to Alison Parsons for details.

Lilies for Easter

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 Claire Roberts.

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 (April 13th).

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday April 27th towards the end of the 10am service.

A Calendar of Events has been compiled by the PCC. The first issue is enclosed with this pew leaflet.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon Rodney
Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwarden and Safeguarding
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