



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE
THE NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER TRINITY
YEAR C
17TH. AUGUST 2025**



The Youtube details for this service are:

<https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst>

This service is being live streamed on You Tube. If you are not happy with your image being broadcast, please notify one of the sidesmen before the start of the service.

The sidesmen today are: Judy Darkins and Jean Elliott

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
upon the altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for
Thee,
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death Thy endless mercies seal,
and make my sacrifice complete.

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 sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your

Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 read by Bob Ash

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who

were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Give us the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
How bright their glories be.

We ask them whence their victory came:

They, with united breath,
Ascribe the conquest to the Lamb,
Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,

His zeal inspired their breast,
And, following their incarnate God,
They reached the promised rest.

Gospel Reading

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and what

constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

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

Reflection

Baptism Hymn

Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our
king;
heirs of salvation,

trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our
king;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we
sing.

Baptism of Bodhi Felton Gerber

Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our
king;
born of one Father,
we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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
Judy Darkins

Everlasting God, forgive us for overlooking your power and trying to live in our own strength. Help us to understand that we can't do it on our own, and thank you for providing everything that we need. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Holy God, we ask for your blessing upon this congregation and upon this church, praying for your presence to be seen vividly in what we and our brothers and sisters in Christ do each day. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for Bodhi Felton Gerber baptised today, that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in Bodhi. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in us and through us as we take up our cross and follow wherever you lead us. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, thank you for investing so heavily in us and in the world in which we live. Help us to see that there is no one who can love us like you do. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Help us to focus our priorities and our thoughts on heavenly things, as well as placing our treasures in heaven. May this way of thinking be seen in the leaders of the world, where, so often, we see greed and graft overshadowing the needs of the poor and needy. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, thank you for our friends and families. We especially pray for all who visit us, and for all who cater for them as they enjoy their holidays. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for those who are sick. As time drags on and answers seem far away, teach them and us, to find help in you and your presence and enable them to endure and to trust in you. We pray for Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Val Manser, Thomas Cox, Gwen Brown, Peter Duffy, Matt and Hannah. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Faithful God, when someone we know dies, help us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.

We pray for the recently departed: Danija Antonijevic, Gordon Connell, Janice Fenlon and Bentley Vermeulen.

For those whose years mind occurs this month: Carol Larkin, Gillian Robinson, Olivia Mason, Cecil Bishop, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Douglas Nurney, Eric Warren, Gordon Garwood-Warren, Christopher Golding, William Livermore, Eunice Botha, Gwendolen Clarkson, Gerald Abbey, Philip Skeet, Barbara Cox and Graham Brackstone.

For hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do on your behalf.

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 (Please stand if you are able)

Hark! The sound of holy voices,
chanting at the crystal sea:
alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord, to thee:
multitude, which none can number,
like the stars in glory stands,
clothed in white apparel, holding
palms of victory in their hands.

Patriarch and holy prophet,
who prepared the way of Christ,
king, apostle, saint, confessor,
martyr and evangelist,
saintly maiden, godly matron,
widows who have watched to
prayer,
joined in holy concert, singing
to the Lord of all, are there.

They have come from tribulation,
and have washed their robes in
blood,
washed them in the blood of Jesus;
tried they were, and firm they
stood;
gladly, Lord, with thee they
suffered;
gladly, Lord, with thee they died,
and by death to life immortal
they were born, and glorified.

Now they reign in heavenly glory,
now they walk in golden light,
now they drink, as from a river,
holy bliss and infinite;
love and peace they taste for ever,
and all truth and knowledge see
in the beatific vision
of the blessed Trinity.

God of God, the One-begotten,
Light of Light, Emmanuel,
in whose Body joined together
all the saints for ever dwell;
pour upon us of thy fullness,

that we may for evermore
God the Father, God the Son, and
God the Holy Ghost adore.

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.**

Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this
your Table, O 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 thy Table. But you are the
same Lord, whose property 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:
Sandra Dreyer and Alison Parsons

Communion Hymn

We hail thy presence glorious,
O Christ our great High Priest,
o'er sin and death victorious,
at thy thanksgiving feast:
as thou art interceding
for us in heaven above,
thy church on earth is pleading
thy perfect work of love.

Through thee in every nation
thine own their hearts upraise,
offering one pure oblation,
one sacrifice of praise:
with thee in blest communion
the living and the dead

are joined in closest union,
one Body and one Head.

O living bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
who thine own self hast given
to be our souls' true food;
for us thy body broken
hung on the cross of shame:
this bread its hallowed token,
we break in thy dear name.

O stream of love unending,
poured from the one true vine,
with our weak nature blending
the strength of life divine;
our thankful faith confessing
in thy life-blood outpoured,
we drink this cup of blessing
and praise thy name, O Lord.

May we thy word believing,
thee through thy gifts receive,
that, thou within us living,
we all to God may live;
draw us from earth to heaven
till sin and sorrow cease,
forgiving and forgiven,
in love and joy and peace.

Post Communion Collect

**Holy Father, who gathered us here
around the table of your Son to
share this meal with the whole
household of God: in that new
world where you reveal the
fullness of your peace, gather**

**people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of
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

God the Holy Trinity make you
strong in faith and love, defend you
on every side, and guide you in truth
and peace; and the blessing ...

Notices

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

The head that once was crowned
with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow.
The highest place that Heav'n
affords
Is his, is his by right,
The King of Kings and Lord of
Lords,
And Heav'n's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy of all below,
To whom he manifests his love
And grants his name to know.
To them, the cross, with all its
shame,

With all its grace is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of Heav'n.
They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with him above;
Their profit and their joy to know
The myst'ry of his love.
The cross he bore is life and health,
Tho' shame and death to him;
His people's hope, his people's
wealth,
Their everlasting theme.
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

NOTICES

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

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 under *Welcome* tab and through a link under *Giving*.

Ride and Stride - This year marks the 40th anniversary of the annual Ride and Stride for Churches, raising money for the repair and maintenance of historic Kent Churches.

The event takes place on Saturday 13th September and participants are encouraged to cycle or walk (or run) around Kent, visiting participating churches on the way and getting sponsored for their efforts. If you are interested in taking part in this very worthwhile sponsored event, either by cycling, walking or manning our church on the day, please contact Felicity Robinson at church or on 07871999536 for sponsorship forms or more details. Many thanks

God, the Planet and Us is a short, online, evening course from St Augustine's College of Theology, designed to help ordinary Christians understand and navigate our ecological and climate crisis. Find out more and book your place at <https://staugustinescollege.ac.uk/god-the-planet-and-us/>

Tuesday evenings, 16 September to 14 October 2025, 7.30 to 9.00pm Online, so you can join wherever you are in the world.

God, the Planet, and Us costs just £50, with free places available for people facing economic disadvantage. The course is open to all.

The Eco Working Group – will be meeting on Saturday 30th August between 10 and 12am. Please help if you can. The work being carried out

is making a great improvement to the churchyard.

Sale on Saturday 11th October –

This is a sale in church of

Pictures, Plants and Jewellery,

We would be pleased to receive any of the above items that you would like to donate for this sale in aid of St Laurence Church.

The Fellowship Groups will reconvene and meet again starting in September. We will be discussing the book by Archbishop Rowan Willams called BEING DISCIPLES - ESSENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. Notes summarising each of the Six Chapters of the book will be provided. It is a very good book and the course will be a great help to us on our common Christian journey.

If you would like to join an exciting and rewarding process lasting six sessions, please choose a group to join and put your name down. Dates and times as to when to meet will be decided by each of the respective groups. Thank you.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens

Claire Roberts 01580 754374
Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Assistants

Lydeke Klein 01580 493732
Ali Jones 01580 755705

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825 044877

Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817
Richard O'Neill
01580 753817