



**St. Laurence Church,  
Hawkhurst  
in the Diocese of Canterbury  
The Parish Eucharist  
Service Celebrated in Celtic  
Style**

**The Eighteenth Sunday  
after Trinity (Year C)  
19th. October 2025**

*This church is a Hybrid Church open for public worship and private prayer. This service will be live streamed. Your image will be captured on CCTV as a participant in the liturgy. Please tell a sidesman if you do not wish to be filmed in order to be seated in a position out of the view of the camera.*

The You Tube link is:

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

The Sidesmen today are Judy Darkins and Jean Elliott

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

All my hope on God is  
founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and  
chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,

he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.  
Human pride and earthly  
glory,  
sword and crown betray his  
trust;  
what with care and toil he  
buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.  
God's great goodness aye  
endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing  
thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend  
him,  
beauty springeth out of  
naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and  
adore.  
Daily doth th' Almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we  
go.  
Love doth stand  
at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.  
Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,

high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

### **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 and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith

that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 read by Claire**

**Roberts**

Beloved:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it,

and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,

who will judge the living and the dead,

and by his appearing and his kingly power:

proclaim the word;

be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;

convince, reprimand,

encourage through all patience and teaching.

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

Fight the good fight with all thy might!

Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;

Lay hold on life, and it shall be Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,

Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;

Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;

His boundless mercy will provide;

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove

Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,  
He changeth not, and thou art dear;  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
That Christ is all in all to thee.

### **Gospel Reading**

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,**  
The word of God is living and effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.

**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**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect

any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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 Robin Crowther**

Hidden and mysterious God, we seek you in our darkness and our unknowing, so come to us with tender love as we raise before you our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Father God, as church leaders spend time in prayer and preparation, fill them with divine inspiration and revelation, so that when they speak, it will be your word which comes in power to challenge, convict and empower. As they plan ahead, let them be led by you.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Mighty God, we pray for all who carry civic and political responsibilities throughout the world. Help the leaders of the nations put aside all selfish ambition as they seek to be the instruments of your will for humanity and carry out your desire for the welfare of all people which will culminate in glory to you and in happier human lives.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Compassionate God, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross. We hold before you those who are homeless. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide for them.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Living God, where there is sickness turn weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort. Help all

who suffer to trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of their suffering. Let them be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait for your healing touch. We pray for Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Thomas Cox, Gwen Brown, Peter Duffy, Matt, Jill, Carol, Ellamae Coy, Dido Robson, Hannah and Chris Bodeen.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Everlasting God, we remember all those who have recently departed; Syd Rivers and Margery Ann Harris - Stonham and we remember those who have walked the same path that we tread, and, by their example, encouragement, wise words and teaching led others into your Kingdom and so we offer our grateful thanks particularly for those whose anniversary falls at this time: Kathleen Anderson, Michelle Berge, Mary Howarth, Raymond John Denney,

Carmen Bickle, John Velvick, Tim Morton, Janusz Kent, Janina Misayat, Christopher Denne, Pat Bassant, Philip Sheldon, Arthur Horner, Graham Rutherford, Patricia Travers, Janet Attwood, Alan Collins, Anne Felton Gerber, Dorothy Heady, Peggy Richardson, Andrew Burke-Smith, Sophie Ford, Doreen Joyce Robinson, Ken Davis, Elizabeth Norton-Smith, Audrey Watson, Rosamund Johnson

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Faithful God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thank you that we can live in Your light and walk in Your truth. May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Loving God, receive these prayers and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and 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)**

*(During this hymn a collection will be taken for the continuing work of this church locally)*

Through all the changing scenes of life,

In trouble and in joy,

The praises of my God shall still

My heart and tongue employ.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,

With me exalt His name;

When in distress to Him I called,

He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around

The dwellings of the just;

Deliverance He affords to all

Who on His succour trust.

Oh, make but trial of His love,

Experience will decide

How blest they are, and only they,

Who in His truth confide.

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then

Have nothing else to fear;

Make you His service your delight,

Your wants shall be His care.

### **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.**

A Prayer as we join with those  
watching and worshipping with  
us on You tube

**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:  
Julie Hammonds and Rachael  
Ringer

### **Communion Hymn**

Bread is blessed and broken  
Wine is blessed and poured  
Take this and remember  
Christ the Lord

Share the food of heaven  
Earth can not afford  
Here is grace in essence  
Christ the Lord

Know yourself forgiven  
Find yourself restored

Meet a friend for ever  
Christ the Lord

God has kept His promise  
Sealed by sign and word  
Here for those who want Him  
Christ the Lord

### **Post Communion Collect**

We praise and thank you, O  
Christ, for this sacred feast: for  
here we receive you, here the  
memory of your passion is  
renewed, here our minds are  
filled with grace, and here a  
pledge of future glory is given,  
when we shall feast at that  
table where you reign with all  
your saints 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.**

### **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)**

Immortal love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea!

Upon our lips we bear the name  
all other names above;  
yet love alone knows whence it came,  
that all-embracing love.

We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;  
in vain we search the lowest deeps,  
for him no depths can drown.

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its Olivet,  
and love its Galilee.

The margin of his robe we feel  
through sorrow and through pain;  
we touch the Lord whose love can heal,  
and we are whole again.

Through him the earliest prayers are said

that children's lips can frame;  
the last low whispers of our  
dead  
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love no words can  
tell,

your saving name is given;  
to turn aside from you is hell,  
to walk with you is heaven!

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

May the divine assistance re-  
main with us always.

**And with all our brothers and  
sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful de-  
parted through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace. And rise in  
glory. **Amen.**

**We listen to the Organ Vol-  
untary**

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## **NOTICES**

**Wednesday Eucharist** at  
Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.  
Please do 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

**Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Par-  
ish Lunch - 2nd November  
2025

Hot meal - vegetarian/vegan  
option available, wine/soft  
drinks included.

£10 per head, under 16's £5,  
under 10's free. Please bring  
own plates/cutlery etc. Sign up  
form on table by entrance.

Contributions of desserts wel-  
come, please indicate.

Please also indicate if you  
need transport. Steve and Di-  
ana Ringer

**Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - at  
**7:30pm** in St Laurence  
Church, the Bodiam Band are  
holding an informal 'cabaret  
style' concert with interval mu-  
sic performed by small ensem-  
bles from the band.

They'd love to see you if you  
can make it.

**Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Re-  
membrance Service.

### **Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>** –

King Aardvarks Big Swing Band concert 7pm in church. Put on your dancing shoes. Tickets £14 in advance and £16 on the door to include the first drink. Paying licenced bar and snacks available during the interval. Tickets available from October. See Claire or Liz.

### **Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>** –

Light up a Life service (Hospice in the Weald) at 3.00pm.

### **Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Christ-

mas Tree Festival 10am – 4pm.

### **Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>** -

Christmas Tree Festival 10am – 4pm.

### **Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>** -

Christmas Tree Festival 11.30– 4pm.

### **Easyfundraising**

St Laurence Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign

up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlaurence-hawkhurst/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=email-1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlaurence-hawkhurst/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1)

### **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 below.



### **Pictures, Plants and Pretty**

## **Things**

Many thanks to everyone for their donations and support for the sale last weekend. Our final total was £1,015.65, which will be split between the Church, Spafford Children's Centre (helping Palestinian children) and the Christian Aid Gaza appeal.

## **Wildlife Group**

We are holding our next meeting on 25/10/25 at 10am with the usual incentive of tea, coffee and home made cakes.

We hope to see as many of you as possible for what will probably be our last session before the winter sets in.

If you have strimmers, rakes, wheelbarrows, secateurs and trowels please bring them along. We have lots of different jobs this time ranging from pruning and scattering yellow rattle seeds to strimming and raking, so something for everyone. We plan to work in small teams this time so hopefully it will be fun as well.

To thank you all for the hard work you have put in we are holding a Christmas nibbles

and drinks morning on December 13th, so please make a note in your diaries, all are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon,

## **The Weald Deanery "Intercessory Prayer" Workshop**

Date: Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

Time: 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Vestry Hall, High Street, Marden TN12 9HN

The session is designed for those who lead intercessions in gathered worship, or who are interested in knowing more about doing so. It touches on the theology of intercessory prayer but focuses mainly on the practical aspects of preparing, teaching, discussion and interactive activities, and is led by Lyndall Bywater and Primrose Northrop, both of whom are passionate about the privilege and joy of leading God's people in prayer.

Please let Revd David Commander know if you wish to attend.

His e mail is: revdavidcommander@gmail.com

Mr. Richard O'Neill  
01580 753817

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

**Vicar** The Revd Canon  
Rodney Dreyer  
01580 754459

**Licensed Parish Reader**

Mr. Stephen Ringer  
01580 879710

**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