DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church, Hawkhurst - Parish Eucharist 7.12.2025 - The Second Sunday of Advent

We welcome Bishop Rose
Hudson-Wilkin, The Bishop of
Dover who will be presiding
and preaching at our service
today.

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/@St LaurenceChurchHawkhurst

The Sidesperson today is Anne Wheelhouse

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)
Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified; no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me; thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

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

The Vicar leads us in:

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle - The Candle of Peace

The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus

May your hearts be filled with peace as you hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who told of one who would be born the Prince of Peace.

Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle of Hope in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs. We light it again as we place our hope in Jesus the blessing of God for all nations.

Isaiah Chapter 9

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

(The second candle is lit)

Let us pray:

Lord God you spoke through your prophets and promised a kingdom of peace. We welcome you Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our hearts long for the establishment of your kingdom of justice and righteousness. **Amen.**

The Bishop

The Lord be with you And also with you

Penitence

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

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

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

Amen

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,

and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray together

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard;

In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and

In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

The First Reading - read by Julie Hammonds

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah Chapter 11 beginning at the first verse.

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist.

and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the bear shall be neighbours, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on

the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

<u>Gradual Hymn</u> (Please stand if you are able)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression.

to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy

to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;

To give them songs for sighing,

their darkness turn to light,

whose souls, condemned and dying,

are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains,

from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

Gospel Reading read by the Vicar

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father."

For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptising you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

The Homily - The Bishop

The Creed - said together
We believe in one God, the
Father, the Almighty, maker
of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen. We
believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light

from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. who spoken has through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of

sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church - led by Jane Cooper

Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah. Inspire Bishop Rose, Bishop of Dover and Bishop Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury elect, and all Christian leaders, who are stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, so that when Christ comes again to be our judge we may stand with confidence before his glory. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Faithful God we pray for your blessing to be upon this congregation, upon the Church throughout the world and upon our parish. May your presence be seen vividly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might ever be perfect examples of your love in action.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our** prayer.

Creator God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child is King. Clear the trouble spots of our world from hatred and despair and sow seeds of joy and peace so that shoots of hope may spring forth and all people, whatever their creed, race, colour or gender may live together in harmony with one another. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Gracious God you enfold those on the margins of society with love and you experienced through Jesus what it was like to be excluded.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**.

We continue to pray for King Charles and every member of the Royal Family that all things belonging to the Holy Spirit may continue to live and grow in them. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**.

We ask you to help those at the edges of our communities and

give them hope through the patience and encouragement of all of us who claim to be your people. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember all whose illness stems from a mental health issue, who often suffer in silence because of stigma and who reach out for help that is often not there because of stretched services. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**.

Help us to continue to serve the needs of those who suffer. 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, Dido Robson, Hannah, Chris Bodeen, Val. Jane and Jeremy, Val Mansell. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniver-

sary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom. We pray for those recently departed.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose years mind occur this month: Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, John Heady, Herbert Fautly, Matthew Liggett, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey Fautly, Irene Reed, Nancy Bennett, Hammonds, Mary Alice Newcomb, Fergus Charles Gask, Gerald Larkin, Ignace Van Kan, Barbara Kirby, Victoria Wells, Mary Kilby, John Hunt. lda Levett. Peter Scoones, Joyce Clark, Barbara Neville Highwood, Elgar, Ronald Catt, Raymond Collins, Dennis Vinall, Derek Christie, David Hyde, Sheila Cox, Anne Maugham, Roy Cooper,

Charles Henry Collingwood, Kiora Andrew Hill, Peter Penfold

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**.

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children, evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. May what we have sung and spoken with our lips become strong belief in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts become our way of life, throughout this Advent and in the years to come. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We bring to the Lord our own petitions....

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our** prayer.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

The Peace
We stand to sing

Shalom, Shalom, May peace be with you, Throughout your days;

In all that you do, May peace be with you, Shalom, Shalom. (Repeat)

<u>Hymn</u> (Please stand if you are able)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

does its successive journeys run,

his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,

till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,

and praises throng to crown his head

His name like sweet perfume shall rise

with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue

dwell on his love with sweetest song,

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

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:

the prisoners leap to lose their chains.

the weary find eternal rest,

and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring

the highest honours to our King,

angels descend with songs again,

and earth repeat the loud amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SAC-RAMENT

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Bishop continues with the Eucharistic Prayer Preface and then all sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

(Sit/kneel)

The Bishop continues, recalling and remembering with us the Last Supper..... then we sing:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

At the end of the next prayer we respond **Amen**.

The Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

We break this Bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one Bread

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.

A Prayer for those joining us on Youtube who are making their Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above 'all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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 your 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 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.

The Distribution of Communion

The chalice bearers today are: Peter Hodges and Bob Ash

Communion Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here; Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear: In him no sin is found- we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:

How awesome is the sight- our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:

No work too hard for him- in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Post - Communion Prayers
Give thanks to the Lord for God
is gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing ... **Amen.**

Notices

<u>Hymn (Please stand if you are</u> able)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

announces that the Lord is nigh.

Awake and harken, for he brings

glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:

make straight the way for God within,

and let us all our hearts prepare

for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,

our refuge and our great reward.

Without your grace we waste away

like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our

health restore,

and make us rise to fall no more.

O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won.

whom with the Father we adore,

and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We sit to listen to the organ Voluntary --

Bach - "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"

NOTICES

Wednesday Eucharist at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.

Please do join us.

<u>Compline</u> - We celebrate a compline service on zoom each Wednesday at 6.00pm. Please feel free to join us if you can.

The Zoom link is: Meeting ID: 457 244 0784 Passcode: 5i1Uca

Advent Giving Tree – The Advent Giving Tree for Sightsavers International is now at the back of the church. Please hang your gift on the tree and it will be replaced with a star. Sightsavers treat eye conditions such as <u>cataracts</u> and tackle debilitating <u>diseases</u>, many of which cause sight loss.

Reverse Advent Calendar -

Please consider collecting 24 items for the Food Bank (a reverse Advent Calendar). Your items should be brought to church by next Sunday 14th December (last date, please). They will then be sent to the Food Bank for distribution before Christmas. (two

people could share the collection of one Reverse Advent Calendar Box).

Grief Talks - Time to share and reflect on Friday 12th December. 10 - 12.00 noon at Mission Church, Back Road. Sandhurst TN18 5JU Coming to terms with the loss of a loved one can be one of the hardest things we have to do. We are offering a morning to explore our grief through conversation, readings crafting together. It will be a safe space to come to talk and share what has been going on for you. Talking to othwho have been ers through similar experiences can be helpful, or just knowing that someone is there to listen.

For more information and to book this free workshop please contact Claire Roberts on 01580 754374 or email claireecr57@yahoo.com

<u>Village Carol Service</u> – 6pm on Sunday 21st December. After the service refreshments will be served. We would love to receive donations of mince pies to serve with the mulled wine.

<u>Christmas Message Tree</u> –

the children have made a large tree for seasonal messages. It is standing in their corner with a supply of labels for your message. You may wish to consider writing your Christmas message on their tree and donating to charity, instead of purchasing Christmas cards.

Easyfundraising

St Laurence Church is regiseasyfundraising, tered with 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 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/stlaurencehawkhurst/?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. 'Each Sunday in Advent we will hear one of the Great 'O' Antiphons - traditionally used in the seven days preceding Christmas Day during Vespers. The text gives a title of Christ; one of His attributes mentioned in scripture. Advent I begins 'O Sapientia' - O Wisdom '

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 8am SER-VICE NEXT WEEK (SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER).



CHRISTMAS 2025

Christmas Tree Festival

Friday December 5th 10am – 4 pm Saturday December 6th 10am – 4 pm Sunday December 7th 11.30am – 4pm

Sunday 14th 10am

Fr. Rodney's Farewell Eucharist

Sunday 21st 6pm

Village Carol Service

Wednesday 24th 4.30pm

Crib Service – children to come dressed as a Nativity character. There will be a live donkey at this service.

Wednesday 24th 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th 8am

Holy Communion

Thursday 25th 10am

Family Service with Holy Communion

AT YOUR SERVICE

<u>Vicar</u> The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer 01580 754459

<u>Licensed Parish Reader</u> Mr. Stephen Ringer 01580 879710

Authorised Lay Minister Dr. Julie Hammonds 07587 470678

Churchwardens Claire Roberts 01580 754374 Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Assistants Lydeke Klein 01580 493732 Ali Jones 01580 755705

Safeguarding: Mrs Jane Cooper 07825 044877