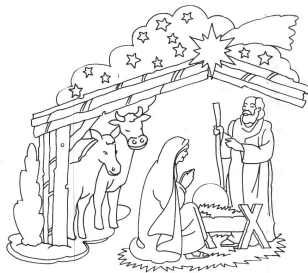


**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
HAWKHURST
Family Communion
CHRISTMAS MORNING
25th December 2025**

The Youtube details are:
<https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst>



The Gladness of Christ is
HOPE

The Spirit of Christ is **PEACE**
The Heart of Christ is **LOVE**

The sidesmen today are
Sandra Dreyer and Lydeke
Klein

WE GATHER

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy
mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,

"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

Christ, by highest heaven
adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead
see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to
dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. *[Refrain]*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of
Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
[Refrain]

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

I bring you good news of great
joy for all the people; to you is
born this day in the city of
David a Saviour who is the
Messiah, the Lord.
For the birth of Jesus your Son,

our Saviour, cradled in a manger at Bethlehem; **We thank you, heavenly Father.**

For the love and gentle care of Mary, his mother, most blessed of all women; **We thank you, heavenly Father.**

For the goodwill of this Christmas season, in our hearts and in our homes, bringing joy and gladness to us all; **We thank you, heavenly Father.**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Father, we have sinned and strayed from the truth. May your Son's birth restore our self respect and give us grace to persevere:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, you came to lead us to the loving mercy of God: **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, fill us this Christmastide, with your consolation and strength: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all

goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God

COLLECT (SPECIAL
PRAYER) OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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**

*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.**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S
WORD

Please sit

First Reading: read by Liz
Hatcher

*A reading from the book of the
Prophet Isaiah, Chapter fifty*

*two beginning at the seventh
verse*

How beautiful upon the
mountains are the feet of him
who brings glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing
good news, announcing
salvation, and saying to Zion,
“Your God is King!”

Hark! Your sentinels raise a
cry, together they shout for joy,
for they see directly, before
their eyes, the LORD restoring
Zion. Break out together in
song, O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD comforts his
people, he redeems
Jerusalem. The LORD has
bared his holy arm in the sight
of all the nations; all the ends
of the earth will behold the
salvation of our God.

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

Joy to the world; the Lord is
come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him
room,
And Heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the Earth, the Saviour
reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows
grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his bless-
ings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteous-
ness,
And wonders of his love.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
John, Chapter one, beginning
at the first verse.

Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He
was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being
through him, and without him
not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in
him was life, and the life was
the light of all people. The light
shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from
God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify
to the light, so that all might be-
lieve through him. He himself
was not the light, but he came
to testify to the light. The true
light, which enlightens every-
one, was coming into the
world.

He was in the world, and the
world came into being through
him; yet the world did not know
him. He came to what was his
own, and his own people did
not accept him. But to all who
received him, who believed in
his name, he gave power to be-
come children of God, who
were born, not of blood or of
the will of the flesh or of the will
of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us, and we
have seen his glory, the glory
as of a father's only son, full of
grace and truth.

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

Away in a manger, no crib for a
bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked
down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on

the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying
He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look
down from the sky
and stay by my side until morn-
ing is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask
Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love
me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in
Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live
with Thee there.

REFLECTION

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

We stand to say:

THE CREED

Do you believe and trust in God
the Father,
who made the world? **I be-
lieve and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his
Son Jesus Christ, who re-
deemed mankind? **I believe
and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his

Holy Spirit, who gives life to the
people of God? **I believe and
trust in him.**

**This is the faith of the
Church.**

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one
God.**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCES- SION

*(Please Sit or kneel) Prayers
led by the Vicar*

On the first day of Christmas
Jesus Christ, God's gift to us
on that first Christmas, was
born to Mary and Joseph in the
poorest of circumstances. We
pray for the poor of the world
many of whom live in condi-
tions far worse than the stable
where Jesus began his earthly
life.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our
Prayer**

On the second day of Christ-
mas the Heavenly choir of An-
gels appeared to the shep-
herds and sang to the Glory of
God; so we give thanks for our
church music and those who
play and sing God's praises,

not only with Carols, at this joyful time, but week by week in our worship together in Christian churches throughout the world. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the third day of Christmas the Shepherds returned home to spread the Good News; we pray for evangelists, preachers and teachers who tell out the Gospel story of God's amazing gift to all humankind. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the fourth day of Christmas the three Kings arrived in Jerusalem; we raise before God the Holy city of Jerusalem praying that it may be place of true peace, and an international centre of worship for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the fifth day of Christmas the Three Kings sought news of Jesus from King Herod; we pray for rulers of the nations in our troubled world where so many leaders abuse their positions and their power. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the sixth day of Christmas, Herod ordered the "Slaughter of the Innocents"; we pray for all those who continue to be slaughtered in acts of genocide, racial cleansing and similar atrocities. We continue to pray for the sick and suffering known to us: 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**

On the seventh day of Christmas, The Kings found Jesus and presented their gifts – we give thanks for the season of giving and receiving and for the joy and happiness that it generates. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the eighth day of Christmas, Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord and for Him to be circumcised; we pray for all new-born children, for

those being baptised and receiving their Christian names. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the ninth day of Christmas, Simeon rejoiced that he had not died before he had seen the Lord's Christ; we pray for those who are coming to the end of their lives and especially for those who have seen Jesus in their lives and lived that life accordingly. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the tenth day of Christmas, Anna, who had devoted her whole life to prayer and fasting, recognised Jesus as The Redeemer; so we pray for those who within religious communities across the world fast and pray for the world and for each of us. In the same spirit we now pray for those who are ill or in need. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Holy family left the shelter of the stable – we pray for all those involved in hospitality and tourism

and for all people who, like the

Innkeeper in Bethlehem, make their homes a place of welcome and love.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

On the Twelfth day of Christmas, the Holy Family fled to Egypt – we pray for all those fleeing their homes in Gaza, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Iraq and those European countries which are welcoming them and giving safe refuge.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the recently departed. We pray for those whose years' mind occur at this time: 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, Mary Alice Hammonds, Charles Newcomb, Fergus Gask, Gerald Larkin, Ignace Van Kan, Barbara Kirby, Victoria Wells,

Mary Kilby, John Hunt, Ida Le-vett, Peter Scoones, Joyce Clark, Barbara Elgar, Neville Highwood, 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**

Lord God you sent your angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. We have heard his story, the story of Your own Son. May he fill us with joy to bring this good news to others today and through the twelve days of Christmas and into the New Year beyond.

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

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand and the Priest introduces the peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

(during which a collection will be made for the continuing work of this church locally)

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping
their sheep
on a cold winter's night that
was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond
them far;
and to the earth it gave great
light,
and so it continued both day
and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same
star
three wise men came from
country far;
to seek for a king was their in-
tent,
and to follow the star wherever
it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,

born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the
north-west:

o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and
stay,

right over the place where Je-
sus lay.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise
men three,

full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his pres-
ence,

their gold and myrrh and frank-
incense.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly
Lord

who hath made heaven and
earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind
hath bought.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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 ac-
ceptable 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.**

We sing

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on
snow,

Snow on snow,

In the bleak mid-winter

Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold
Him

Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee
away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cheru-
bim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

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 him thanks
and praise**

Why do we give thanks and
praise at this table?
**We give thanks for all that
God has done for us**

God the Father created the
heavens, the earth and every-
thing in them; and created us in
his own image.
**Let us give thanks and
praise**

Christ our Lord became human
like us, and died to save us.
**Let us give thanks and
praise**

God sent the Holy Spirit to
gather us together as the peo-
ple of God
**Let us give thanks and
praise**

So come let us join together to worship this God who loves us.

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

**Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord. Ho-
sanna in the highest.**

(Please Sit/kneel)

We praise you Father that before Jesus our Saviour suffered and died, he gave us this holy meal to share and told us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood,

poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord, we bring our lives and all we have. We give ourselves to you, as you gave yourself for us.

Help us to be open to you.

Help us to receive your Spirit,

The Spirit of Freedom,

The Spirit of Peace,

The Spirit of Love.

As we share your Spirit, so help us to share the life of Jesus. Accept this offering of praise, which we make with all our hearts.

Blessing and honour and glory and power, are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

The Lord's Prayer

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

We sing together

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.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own

righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body and our souls washed through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

The Distribution of Communion
For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

The Chalice Bearers are: Sandra Dreyer and Claire Roberts

Communion Hymn

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have
been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,

when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Re-
deemer,
first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

This is He whom heav'n-taught
singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the
prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now He shines, the long-ex-
pected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore
Him;
angel hosts, His praises sing:
pow'rs, dominions, bow before
Him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the
Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high
thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,

evermore and evermore!

Prayer After Communion

We pray together in thanksgiving to God

Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen

BLESSING

NOTICES

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Priest pronounces a Blessing.
We respond **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Closing Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him

Born the King of Angels

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb

Very God

Begotten, not created

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

All glory in the highest

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning

Jesus, to Thee be glory given

Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!.

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 sit to listen to the Organ Voluntary.

Please do say a prayer at the Crib for peace and reconciliation in our world.

A Very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all from

Fr Rodney, Sandra and all the members of the PCC

AT YOUR SERVICE

Licensed Parish Reader

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

Organists:

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