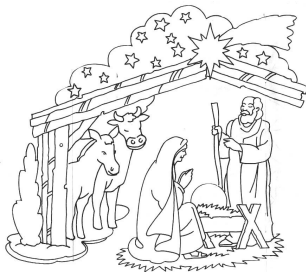


**DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
CHANGED LIVES - CHANGING
LIVES**

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
HAWKHURST
PARISH EUCHARIST**

**28.12.2025
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRIST-
MAS**

The Youtube details are:
[https://www.youtube.com/@St
LaurenceChurchHawkhurst](https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst)



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

The Sidesman today is: Kate
Lagden

We gather

Angels from the realms of
glory,
wing your flight o'er all the
earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
[Refrain]:
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn
king.
Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by
night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
[Refrain]

Sages, leave your
contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of
nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
[Refrain]

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Introduction

Every family has its cares and
worries. In today's celebration
we are shown that Mary and
Joseph and Jesus had more
than their fair share of
problems and woes, especially

that the very reason and heart of this family was Jesus, this special son. They did everything for him. What is typical for us in the Holy Family is that in everything they sought and followed God's will: this will be characteristic too for Jesus, God's will was to be his food and drink. Let the heart of our families, too be Jesus, and with him and Mary and Joseph, we ask ourselves what God wants of us and we do it.

Confession

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.

Jesus, Son of God, as we seek to follow your ways for our lives, help us to obey your promptings

Lord, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, fill us this New Year, 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 Excesses

***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 of the Day

Almighty God, in the birth of
your Son you have poured on
us the new light of your
incarnate Word, and shown us
the fullness of your love: help
us to walk in his light and dwell
in his love that we may know
the fullness of his joy; 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

**First Reading - Hebrews
2:10-end - Read by Bob Ash**

It was fitting that God, for
whom and through whom all
things exist, in bringing many
children to glory, should make
the pioneer of their salvation
perfect through sufferings. For
the one who sanctifies and
those who are sanctified all
have one Father. For this
reason Jesus is not ashamed
to call them brothers and
sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my
brothers and sisters,

in the midst of the
congregation I will praise you.’

And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children
whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children
share flesh and blood, he
himself likewise shared the
same things, so that through
death he might destroy the one
who has the power of death,
that is, the devil, and free those
who all their lives were held in
slavery by the fear of death.
For it is clear that he did not
come to help angels, but the
descendants of Abraham.
Therefore he had to become
like his brothers and sisters in
every respect, so that he might
be a merciful and faithful high

priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say,
Jesus Christ is born today:
ox and ass before him bow
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door
and man is blessed for
evermore!

Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the
grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

In the past God spoke to our
ancestors through the
prophets;
in these last days, he has
spoken to us through the Son.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St. Matthew
Chapter two beginning at the
thirteenth verse

Glory to Christ our Saviour

Now after they had left, an
angel of the Lord appeared to
Joseph in a dream and said,
“Get up, take the child and his
mother, and flee to Egypt, and
remain there until I tell you; for
Herod is about to search for the
child, to destroy him.” Then
Joseph got up, took the child
and his mother by night, and
went to Egypt, and remained
there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfil what had been
spoken by the Lord through the
prophet, “Out of Egypt I have
called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had
been tricked by the wise men,
he was infuriated, and he sent
and killed all the children in and
around Bethlehem who were
two years old or under,

according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarean."

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

We affirm our Faith

We stand to say:

The Nicene Creed

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 has spoken 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.

Prayer of Intercession led by Anne Wheelhouse

(Please Sit/kneel)

Everlasting God, at the eve of a New Year we may find ourselves apprehensive for what the New Year might bring. Reassure us with your loving presence that whatever we might experience in the coming twelve months will not be more than we can bear and that you will never be more than a

prayer away from us.

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

Holy God we pray for Rose, Bishop of Dover and Sara, Archbishop of Canterbury Elect. We raise before you our Church here in Hawkhurst. We lay before you our plans, our hopes and the problems that we might face. Constantly remind us that in our church, results are never measured in terms of winners and losers but in how much our activities glorify your name and bring your son Jesus Christ closer to others.

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

Creator God, help us to know and to understand what it means and what it takes to make disciples and so help to transform the world. May the New year bring peace to those parts of the world where it has been absent for far too long especially in Ukraine, Gaza and Israel.

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

Father God, as we reach out into the community through our worship and social activities, inspire us and enhance our

creativity, as we seek to develop and fund the ministries of our parish and draw others in to know and love your ways. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the sick in their hour of need especially if the New Year fills them with doubts and fears. May they be aware of your presence holding them and encouraging them towards healing and wholeness. 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**

Merciful God as we remember before you those who will not journey into this New Year we thank you for the gift of hope beyond death that you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. We pray for those whose year of mind occurs 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 Levett, 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**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new and so we thank you for this past year and the New Year ahead, for all the potential it holds. Move us every single morning throughout the coming year to look forward to the future with hope and to give you thanks for the wonders of your creation and the wonderful gifts that you have given to us.

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

We stand to share God's peace - 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

Offertory Hymn - During which a collection will be made for the continuing work of our church locally).

[Refrain]:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their
watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the
heavens
there shone a holy light.

[Refrain]

The shepherds feared and
trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth.

[Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
[Refrain].

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
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.**

In the bleak midwinter
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 midwinter,
long ago.

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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God

**It is right to give thanks and
praise**

The Priest 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 in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

(Sit/Kneel)

*The Priest 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 part of
the Eucharistic Prayer we
respond

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.**

The Invitation

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

The Chalice Bearers are:
Alison Parsons and Ali Jones

Communion Hymn

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and
child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven
afar,
heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy
face
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born."

Prayer after Communion

All praise to you, almighty God
and heavenly king, who sent
your Son into the world to take
our nature upon him and to be
born of a pure virgin: grant that,
as we are born again in him, so
he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns
in heaven, now and for ever.

Amen

Notices

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Priest pronounces a
Blessing.

We respond **Amen.**

Go in peace, and take the
Lord's blessing with you all the
days of your life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from
heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and
lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see
Him,
through His own redeeming
love;
for that Child so dear and
gentle
is our Lord in heaven above,
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in
heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children
crowned
all in white shall wait around.

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 sit to listen to the Organ
Voluntary

Please do say a prayer at the
Crib for peace and reconcilia-
tion in our world.

A Very Happy and Blessed
New Year to you all from
Fr Rodney, Sandra and all the
members of the PCC

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