



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

Service of Holy Communion with Baptism

2025 - 'Following Jesus in Reconciliation'

Sunday 30th November 2025 at 10:00am

This service is also broadcast live on YouTube at 10:00am.

Visit: www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaullongridge/streams



Parents please note

If children get restless there are activities in the Centenary Room for pre-school children and toddlers and Children's Church will run for much of the Service. If this is your first time visiting us you will need to register your children with the Children's Church Team when they head out.

We are live streaming this service so if you do not want your child to be shown on screen please do speak to a member of the Children's Church Team.

Welcome, notices and greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Opening Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice;

River and mountain-spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing:
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, awake,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their
Lord;
To you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost west,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the North we come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the universe be blest.

Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)

The Bidding Prayer and the Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of
our ancestors: to you be praise and glory
for ever! You called the patriarchs to live
by the light of faith and to journey in the
hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call and be
ready and watchful to receive your
Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to
our path; for you are our light and our
Salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Presentation of the Baptism Candidates

*The candidates are presented to the
congregation.*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In Baptism the Lord is adding to our
number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome 'Francis
and Mirabel' and uphold '*them*' in there
new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

*The president says to the parents and
godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church
receives 'Francis and Mirabel' with joy.
Today we are trusting God for '*their*'
growth in faith.

Will you pray for '*them*', draw '*them*' by
your example into the community of
faith and walk with '*them*' in the way of
Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism 'Francis and Mirabel' begin
'*their*' journey in faith. You speak for
'*them*' today.

Will you care for '*them*', and help '*them*'
to take '*their*' place within the life and
worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, **Amen.**

The children who would like to take part in the Children's Church head into the Centenary Room, with the Children's Church leaders and with a prayer.

First reading

Isaiah 2 :1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Thy Kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thine iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?
When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
And lust, oppression, crime
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

Men scorn thy sacred name,
And wolves devour thy fold;
By many deeds of shame
We learn that love grows cold.

O'er heathen lands afar
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning star,
Arise, and never set!

L. Hensley (1824 - 1905)

The Gospel reading

Matthew 24 : 36-44

Alleluia, alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 24 : 36-44

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

The Decision

The Children are welcomed back into the main body of the Church as we gather around the baptismal font. The president addresses the candidate/s, parents and godparents:

In Baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

A minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidates using these words.

‘Francis / Mirabel’, Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Loving Father, we thank you for your servant Moses, who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you for your Son Jesus, who has passed through the deep waters of death and through his resurrection opened for all the way of salvation. Now send your Spirit, that those who are washed in this water may die with Christ and rise with him, to find true freedom as your children, alive in Christ for ever. Saving God:

Give us life. Amen.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with this candidate the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father
almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, he is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he
will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

Baptism

‘Francis William / Mirabel Monilewa’ ,

I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by Baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ’s pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen.

The children go back into children’s church

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid

we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray...

Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray...
Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
We pray...
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
We remember Eric Smith, James (Jim) Ashcroft, Martha Wallbank, Iris Oldham.
Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you,
that with St. Lawrence, St. Paul and all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom
on earth as in heaven,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

The Welcome and Peace

The congregation stands

There is one Lord, one faith,
one Baptism: "Francis and Mirabel"
by one Spirit we are all
Baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The congregation greets the newly baptised and shares The Peace

Offertory Hymn

Awake awake: fling off the night!

For God has sent his glorious light;
And we who live in Christ's new day
Must work of darkness put away.

Awake and rise, with love renewed,
And with the Spirit's power endued.
The light of life in us must glow,
And fruits of truth and goodness show.

Let in the light; all sin expose
To Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
His light will judge and, judging, heal.

Awake, and rise up from the dead,
And Christ his light on you will shed.
Its power will wrong desires destroy,
And your whole nature fill with joy.

Then sing for joy, and use each day;
Give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
Praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JR Peacey (1896-1971)

We do not pass a collection plate during the Offertory, but if you would like to make a donation to support the work, ministry and maintenance of the Parish, there is provision at the back of church for donations in cash, weekly envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone using the reader at the back of the church. Thank you.

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

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.
Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Paul, Lawrence and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Choir Sing—**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.

Giving of Communion

During which the children return, everyone is invited to come for Communion. If you are not yet confirmed or not used to receiving Communion in your own church, please come to receive a special prayer of blessing.

Please carry this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing.

Likewise Children who have not been confirmed are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

During Communion

The Choir Sing

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The children tell us what they have been doing.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A lighted candle is presented, and the minister says:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Final Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice, etc...

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, etc...

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice, etc...

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, etc...

*Tr. J. M. Neale (1818 - 66)
and Others*

The Blessing and Dismissal

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 of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be with you all, those you love, those you
have prayed for, this day and forever
more,

Amen

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Please do join us in the Centenary Room
after the service for tea and coffee,
refreshments and a chat.*

Organ voluntary :

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 by J.S. Bach

Morning Prayer

Join us in the St Paul's Church chancel area for 15 minutes simple morning prayer and a bible thought on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9am
(Do bring a bible if you can)

Thursday Service of Holy Communion

Weekly at 10:00—10:45am
in St. Paul's Church Centenary Room
Coffee, tea and a chat enjoyed after,
Please come and join us!!

Brew Time

Every Wednesday from 8.50am-11am
in St Paul's Centenary Room.
Serving tea, coffee, toast, crumpets and cakes!
There's always a warm and
friendly welcome.
Do join us we would love to see you.
Kath & Jacqui, Bev & John

Welcome Cafe

Meet weekly on Wednesdays during
the school term in St. Paul's Church
Centenary Room 3:00– 5:00pm

If anyone is feeling a little bit isolated,
why not pop into the Old Station cafe
on Friday mornings at 11:00am, where
Diane, Isabel and Muriel would be very
pleased to see you.



St Lawrence
with **St Paul**
Longridge

Those Departed - Rest In Peace

Eric Smith
James (Jim) Ashcroft
Marth Wallbank
Iris Oldham



Advent Carol Service

Takes place **TONIGHT**
Sunday 30th November
at 6:30pm in
St. Lawrence's Church.



The Hope of Christmas Blue Christmas Service

A service of comfort and light,
for when pain seems the only gift
under the tree.

Tomorrow night
Monday 1st December
in St. Paul's Church, starts at 7:00pm

Christmas Wreath Making Workshops with Kay Lomax

Wednesday 3rd December at
Longridge Cricket Club - Choose
either 3pm - 5pm or 7pm - 9pm



Cost £40 which includes all materials.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be
included. Places can be reserved by
contacting Graham Kelsall or Dot Little.

Next Sunday's Services - December 7th 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent

10:00am 'Service of Holy Communion' including children's Church
at St. Paul's Church/Live stream

6:30pm 'Service of Evensong' at St. Lawrence's Church

**Come and join us for a
festive celebration as we
unwrap the HOPE of
Christmas.....**

**Events at
St. Paul's Church**

Blue Christmas
7:00pm—Monday 1st December

Christingle Service
10:00am—Sunday 14th December

9 lessons and Carols
6:30pm—Sunday 21st December

Christmas Eve Crib Service
5pm-6pm—Wednesday 25th December

**Events at
St. Lawrence's Church**

Advent carol Service
6:30pm—Sunday 30th November


Christmas Eve Communion
11:30pm—Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Day Early Communion
8:00am—Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day Service
10:00am—Thursday 25th December



**St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge**



**THE
HOPE
of CHRISTMAS**