



Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**Chislehurst Methodist Church**

[www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk)

CCLI95928

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Prayer for the week

Be light, O Lord, to our eyes, music to our ears  
and contentment to our heart.

Be sunlight in our day, food at our table and rest to  
us in the night.

Let us rejoice to be about your business and let us  
live to your praise and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.



*John Cosin (1594-1672)*

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**Minister:** Rev'd Duncan MacBean (Day off - Friday)



**Church office:** Sarah Ridgewell (Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 2pm)

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Please note that the church office will open at 11.30am on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.  
We will be closing for Christmas at 2pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, reopening again on  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

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The final practice for the Carol Service Choir is  
**TODAY, 5 minutes after the end of the morning  
service IN THE CHURCH**, so please get a quick coffee,  
then come straight back. The timing should then allow  
all of us to enjoy our Christmas Lunch. Gillian BB



**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**  
**Preacher: Mrs Susan Cope**

**Please take this notice  
sheet home with you**

## **Advent Offering 2019 – Homelessness and Hospitality**

The Candle Liturgy links lighting the Advent Wreath with the theme of this year's Advent Offering. Each week in Advent the Leader says a prayer and lights the candle(s). Then everyone sings a verse from Longing for Light (StF 706).

## **WELCOME**

## **LIGHTING OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE**

## **LONGING FOR LIGHT – VERSE 3 (STF 706)**

**FIRST HYMN:                    176 Like a candle flame**

## **PRAYERS**

## **JUNIOR CHURCH DRAMA**

**SECOND HYMN:                191 Away in a manger**  
*(1st verse by children and all to hum then join in at 2nd verse)*

## **CHILDREN'S ADDRESS**

## **INTRODUCTION TO OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**FIRST READING:            Isaiah 35: 1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **INTRODUCTION TO GOSPEL READING**

**SECOND READING: Matthew 11: 2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **CHILDREN'S ADDRESS, PART 2**

### **THE ANGEL SMALL**

**THIRD HYMN: 196 Come and join the celebration**

### **SHORT TALK**

**FOURTH HYMN: 213 O little town of Bethlehem**

### **OFFERING**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**FINAL HYMN: 330 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

### **BENEDICTION**

Next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Rev'd Duncan MacBean  
Carols by Candlelight **4pm** (no morning service)

**CAROL SERVICE READERS:** We are looking for ten readers for the carol service next Sunday (4pm). There is a sign-up sheet available today, along with copies of the readings. Please look through and indicate which reading you would like to do on the sheet. Many thanks.

**MONDAY FOCUS:** Monday 16th December Monday Focus Christmas lunch held at 12.30 pm at The Cheques pub, Southborough Lane, BR2 8AP. For more information contact Rosemary on: 07791 603 668.

**THE COFFEE ROTA for 2020** is now available for you to sign up please. Any more information from Dorothy Kelly: 020 8249 8452. Thank you!

**NOT CAROL SINGING FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN:** It was so disappointing for us to not be able to sing carols and raise funds for Action for Children last Sunday. We were one of eight charities to be cancelled at very short notice by The Glades due to double booking. It's a great shame that Action for Children should lose out because of that. Many thanks to those who have kindly given me donations. If you would like to make a donation, please let me know and I will send combined donations to Action for Children early in the New Year. Many thanks. Christine Pott (cpott7@gmail.com).



**THE PRAYER AND GREETINGS CHRISTMAS TREE** is in the Courtyard. Anyone using the Church premises may write a prayer or send a greeting on one of the cards and hang it on the tree. We hope Church members will use this as an opportunity to write Christmas Greetings to other members instead of sending individual cards, and to give a donation to The Bible Society in lieu of the cost of buying cards and postage. Bible Society envelopes are next to the cards. Please hand in any donations to a steward or the office. *Thank you from the Dawe Housegroup*

**CHRISTMAS DONATIONS:** At the Carol Service and Christmas Day the open collection is going to the **Latch Project – Bromley**. They house single homeless persons aged 18+ in the spare rooms of local homeowners within the borough of Bromley. Bromley Churches' Housing Action (BCHA) is a registered charity set up in 1989 to work for the relief of poverty and homelessness in Bromley and to provide, in particular, short-term accommodation.

**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY STORIES FOR FARRINGTON'S SCHOOL:** Recently some students from Farringtons School joined our Thursday service, they are now hoping to collect stories about the church to be included in the school newsletter. If you have anything you would like to share, please write them down and email to Lily Buttery: 14buttl@farringtons.kent.sch.uk, if you need any help emailing, please contact Sarah in the church office. Lily would also like to say a big thank you for welcoming the school into the church community, she would like to pass on their thanks to everyone they met at the Thursday service, they enjoyed it very much.

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020:** Next year's World Day of Prayer service for the Chislehurst and Bickley churches is to be held here at our church on the morning of Friday 6th March. The local WDP committee will lead the worship but we shall need a team of people here to ensure that everything runs smoothly. If you are willing to be involved in any way please let me know and put the date in your diary. Elaine Battarbee.

**THURSDAY SERVICES:** The next lunchtime service will be this Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 12.45pm. As usual, after the service we gather for a sandwich lunch (£5). There will be no service on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, so the first Thursday service after Christmas will be on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**THE FIJIAN METHODIST FELLOWSHIP's:** Regular worship is held here two Sundays a month the next date are, 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> January.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 4pm - Carols by Candlelight (no morning service)

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11am - Christmas Day Service

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am - Circuit Service to be held at CMC

### **WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Jane and the Cowie family, Kath Carpenter, Pam Wallace, Monica Faux, Pam Giles, Myrtle and Neill Truman.

Norma Parry (Owen Terwilliger's grandmother) who passed away peacefully at home, last week. She was just shy of 93 years old.

Jacqui Hicks' mother, who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> December in Sheffield. She was 93 years old. We remember her and her family at this sad time.

All our friends who are in care homes, particularly Arthur Hayes, Les Giles and Joan Clements.

All those who have birthdays this month: Elodie, Wilhelmina, Deyan, William, Jessica, Phoebe, Edward & Kaleb.

When visiting those who can't get to church, please do take them a Notice Sheet. They are always welcome.

As part of the fellowship of Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley; this week we pray for St Mary's Church.

