



Sunday 12th March 2023
Chislehurst Methodist Church

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

Prayer for the week

Our hearts yearn for a spacious silence,
where there is freedom to roam and open space for wonder.
It is not ours to seek and grasp,
but always a capacious gift from just beyond the veil.
In this far country no words are required,
no parade of good intentions but only the willingness to abide.
We are enfolded by the delicate fronds of love
and your whispering peace fills the gentle hollowing of our hearts.
This sweet trespass of momentary grace -
so easily factured by anxious thought and world-wearying grief.
For this gold speck of eternity
we breathe and pray, no knowing where we'll be back this way.

Julian Pursehouse, East Anglia District Chair

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

The Manse, 73 Hawes Lane West Wickham,
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CSW Prayer Meeting – TODAY

There will be a CSW prayer meeting after the service today. We hope to have a good group so please do come along!

If you'd like to find out more about CSW, you can visit their website:

www.csw.org.uk

Please take this notice
sheet home with you

Preacher: Ms Deborah Spinks

Order of Service

Welcome

Introduction: Psalm 95: 1-7

First Hymn: 57 *Let all the world in every corner sing*

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Children's Address

Second Hymn: 536 *He's got the whole world in his hand*

First Reading: Romans 5: 1-11

Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Second Reading: John 4: 5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in

common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Third Hymn: 544 *As the deer pants for the water*

Sermon: Water for the World

Fourth Hymn: 172 *Hills of the north, rejoice*

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Final Hymn: 351 *In Christ alone my hope is found*

Benediction

We thank Sharon and Dorothy for today's flowers.

Next Service: Sunday 19th March - 10.30am, Rev'd Duncan MacBean

NOTICES

Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley **Walk of Witness** is on the morning of Good Friday, 7th April. Once again, our Church will welcome the walkers for refreshments - coffee and hot cross buns - after the walk. Please have a word with Christine Pott or Sue Cope if you are able to help with preparation, serving, etc. Thank you.

Contact Magazine

We are planning an Easter edition of Contact Magazine. If you would like to contribute something (hopefully!) please could you send it to me by Friday 24th March at the latest. Thank you, Sarah.

Methodist Church – Change of Address

The Methodist Church in London has a new address: Methodist Church House, 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF. Email addresses and phone numbers have not changed.

Blue or Red Wool

Does anyone have any remnants of the red or blue wool we used for the hats? Or perhaps from your own collection at home? K&K are trying to make red, white, blue, pennants to form the base of a yarn bombed post box. Please pass anything you have to Sue Cope or leave in the church office. Thank you!

Monday Focus

There will be a hot lunch and Bring and Buy stall for Monday Focus Funds this week. We will be meeting in the Wesley Room from 12.45 pm onwards. The cost is £10 per person. There will be a warm welcome! Rosemary Hughes: 07791 603 668.

Weekly Collection

The Collection will be blessed during the service but will not be brought up to the front during the service. Main reason for this is that many people now give regularly by standing orders. Stewards on duty will mention the decision at the start of each service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday Zoom Service: 16th March
In Person Safeguarding training: Sunday 26th March, 1pm @ Orpington MC
Sunday 2nd April, 1pm @ West Wickham MC
(see poster on noticeboard or contact church office for booking information)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Elaine and Eddie Battarbee, Roland Beecher Bryant, Barbara Herriot, John Iles (Peter's father), Pam Wallace and Myrtle and Neill Truman.

All our friends who are in care homes, particularly Joan Clements and Rosemary Whittingham.

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



CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE

CSW believes in the human rights for freedom of belief, worship and practice therefore seeks to support those people who are being persecuted across the world. In it's worst form it includes imprisonment without trial, refusal of contact for families and defense lawyers, torture and death. The latest estimate of the total number of Christians suffering is 360,000,000, a staggering figure of approximately 1in7. It is also surprising that the church and most of its members in the west react so inadequately.

A small group at this church meets monthly to pray about these things after the morning service. There is no subscription to join CSW although it makes frequent appeals. Booklets contacts, peaceful protests at embassies, conferences are available from its administrative centre in New Malden, Surrey. It has contacts across the world and is able to produce accurate reports on the situation in countries such as Nigeria and Pakistan. These are well respected which gives access to the U.N.O., the U.K. and European Parliaments. The website is: csw.org.uk and the postal address is PO BOX99 New Malden, Surrey KT3 3YF

Please pray and consider getting involved.