



Sunday 19th March 2023
Chislehurst Methodist Church

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

Prayer for the week

God, who leads us on in the journey of faith, we pray for our schools: for those for whom they are places of learning and growth; for those for whom they are places of vocation and service.

May we have the faithfulness to pray for them, the wisdom to know how to serve them, and the humility to contribute to their common life with grace.

May we all know the blessing of growth, and the fulfilment of a life of curiosity, wonder and joy.

Amen.

Jonathan Dean, Director of Learning for Ministry

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Preacher: Rev'd Duncan MacBean

Order of Service

Welcome & Opening Prayer

First Hymn: 39 - *Angel voices ever singing*

Gathering Prayer (responsive)

Second Hymn: 65 - *Sing of the Lord's goodness*³

Prayers of Repentance

First Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Second Reading: John 9: 1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His

parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Sermon

Third Hymn: 346 - *Christ is the world's light*

Prayers of Intercession

Fourth Hymn: 492 - *Christ be my leader*

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing of the Offering

Final Hymn: 440 - *Amazing grace*

Benediction

Next Service: Sunday 26th March - 10.30am, Mrs Joan Mayes

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.

Quiet Space at Church

During the week, the Creche is being opened as a Quiet Space that anyone can come and use for private prayer. The room has been tidied/rearranged a little to reflect this and will be opened when the church office is open (subject to events in the church).

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

The theme of this week's Monday focus meeting is 'Poetry that has special memories'. Please do bring a poem to share with your friends. There will be a sandwich lunch and other refreshments. Cost £5pp. Usual time of 12.45pm onwards in the Wesley Room. All are welcome! Rosemary: 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.

