



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
**Chislehurst Methodist Church**

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

---

**Prayer for the week**

Bless all those who I meet today and those who will give me some part of themselves; their love, their knowledge, their wisdom and their grace.

May I gladly receive the gifts of others today, letting my neighbours into my life and in doing so meet you, the God of all grace.

Shape me, Holy God, in and through my neighbours this day.  
Surround us with your free and generous love.  
Amen.



*Helen Cameron, Northampton District Chair*

---

**Minister: Rev'd Duncan MacBean** (Day off - Friday)  
The Manse, 73 Hawes Lane West Wickham,  
Kent BR4 0DF. M:07432 093 353

**Church office: Sarah Ridgewell** (Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 2pm)  
Chislehurst Methodist Church, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5LX.  
E: [chislehurstmch@gmail.com](mailto:chislehurstmch@gmail.com), T: 020 8468 7695 / M: 07720 617 426



Please take this notice  
sheet home with you

**Preacher: Mrs Joan Mayes**

## **Order of Service**

Call to Worship

First Hymn: 353 *Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it*

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Second Hymn: 370 *Breathe on me breath of God*

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

### ***The Valley of Dry Bones***

*The Lord's hand was upon me and carried me out by his spirit set me down in a plain that was full of bones. He made me pass among them in every direction. Countless numbers covered the plain.*

*He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*

*I answered, "Only you, Lord God know that."*

*Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, say: Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!*

*The Lord God says to these bones: I am going to put breath into you, and you will live. I will fasten sinews to you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin and give you breath, so that you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord."*

*So, as instructed, I began to prophesy. As I was doing this there was a rattling sound, and the bones fitted themselves together. As I watched, sinews appeared upon them, flesh clothed them and they were covered with skin, but there was no breath in them.*

*Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the wind, prophesy, O man and say to it: These are the words of the Lord God: Let winds come from every quarter and breathe into these slain that they may come to life.*

*So I prophesied as I had been told; breath entered them and they came to life and rose to their feet, a mighty company.*

*He said to me, 'O man these bones are the whole people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is gone and we are cut off."*

*Therefore prophesy and say to them: The Lord God says,*

*My people, I shall open your graves and bring you up from them and restore you to the land of Israel. You my people will know I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from them.*

*Then I shall put my spirit into you and you will come to life, and I shall settle you on your own soil and you will know that I the Lord have spoken and I shall act. This is the word of the Lord.*

Reflection

Second Hymn: 733 *God hold us enfold us, through desolate loss*

## Introduction to Reading

Second Reading: John 11: 1-45 (video)

### **The Death of Lazarus**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

### **Jesus Weeps**

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

*Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'*

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

*Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.*

Reflection

Third Hymn:                    359 *Lord Christ, we praise your sacrifice*

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing of Offertory

Final Hymn:                    262 *All glory laud and honour*

Benediction

We thank Sue Cope and Knit and Knatter for today's knitted displays.

---

Next Service: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - 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**

There is still time to contribute something to the Easter edition of *Contact*. Please let Sarah know as soon as possible if you'd like to submit something. Thank you.

### **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 open 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**

This week Monday Focus will be meeting at 12.45pm onwards in the Wesley Room. There will be a sandwich lunch and other refreshments (cost £5 pp). This week is a social plus a short talk about our experience of visiting Wesley's Chapel. Looking forward to seeing you on Monday! 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

In Person Safeguarding training: TODAY, 1pm @ Orpington  
2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1pm @ West Wickham  
*(see poster on noticeboard or contact church office for booking information)*

President of the Methodist Church  
Rev Graham Thompson preaching at CMC: Sunday 21 May 2023 @ 10.30am

Farewell to Deacon Maureen Spinks: Sunday 23rd July 2023 @ 5.00 pm  
*(venue to be advised)*

## 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 Christ Church.

