



Sunday 16th April 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 fractured by anxious
thought
and world-wearying grief.

For this golden speck of eternity
we breathe and pray,
not knowing when 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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The Easter edition of **Contact** is available on the piano – please take one!

Please take this notice
sheet home with you

Preacher: Deacon Maureen Spinks

Order of Service

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 16: 11

First Hymn: 297 *Christ is alive*

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Second Hymn: 295 *Alleluia, alleluia give thanks*

First Reading: John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Third Hymn 306 *Now the green blade rises*

Sermon

Fourth Hymn 303 *I know that my redeemer lives*

Prayers of Intercession

Final Hymn: 309 *See what a morning*

Benediction

We thank Ruth Dawe for the lovely plants this week.

Next Service: Sunday 23rd April - 10.30am, Mrs Pat Woodison

NOTICES

Chislehurst Creates

Hopefully you all remember the fabulous annual event we used to have on the commons called 'The Big Draw' which raised money towards the upkeep of our fabulous commons and keeps Chislehurst a beautiful, green place to live. This year, in collaboration with The Chislehurst Society, Helen Baylis and a team of volunteers are restarting the event under the new title of 'Chislehurst Creates'. It will be held on Saturday September 23rd from 1-5pm on the commons opposite the Tigers Head/The Crown. (The new name means that we will no longer have to pay franchise fees and so all profits can go to the Commons.) The theme this year is 'Chislehurst Creates... the Magic of Nature'. If anyone would like to get involved, please let Helen Baylis know on helenbaylis@yahoo.com.

It would be lovely to have members of our church running a craft table on the day, (no creative experience necessary!) We will also be looking for help on the tea tent and possibly help to prep some of the crafts in advance, which can be done from the comfort of your own home. If you can spare the odd hour here and there, or would like to get involved on the day, all help would be very much appreciated. Thank you! Helen Baylis

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 will be open when the church office is open (subject to events in the church).

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

- Charity cake sale Sat 15th April, 10.30-12.00 @ Petts Wood Methodist Church
- Book, Puzzle & Bric-a-Brac Fair Sat 15th April, 10am-2pm @ New Eltham Methodist Church
- Safeguarding training: Thurs 27th April, 9.30-12.30 @ Bromley Common MC
- Book via leaving a message on 020 8313 1029 or emailing: office@bromleymethodist.org.*
- 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)
- Chislehurst Creates – Community Art Event Saturday 23rd September @ 1pm
(poster on noticeboard and more details to follow)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Monica Faux, Pam Wallace who is currently with her daughter, Fiona, following a brief stay in Northampton hospital, Roland Beecher Bryant, Barbara Herriot, John Iles (Peter's father) 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 Patrick's Church.

