



Sunday 21st May 2023
Chislehurst Methodist Church

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

CCLI95928

Prayer for the week

O consuming fire,
O Spirit of love,
descend into our hearts and there
transform us until we are fire of your
fire,
love of your love,
and Christ himself is formed within us.
Amen.



Elizabeth of Schonau (d.1184)

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**There will be a CSW Prayer Meeting on Sunday 4th June, in the Wesley room
after the service.
Please do come along!**

Please take this notice
sheet home with you

Preachers: Rev'd Nigel Cowgill & Rev'd Canon Graham Thompson
Order of Service

Welcome (*Rev'd Duncan MacBean*)

First Hymn: 364 *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

Prayers

First Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1-15

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, 'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.' They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Second Hymn: 65 Sing of the Lord's goodness, *(video)*

Second Reading: Luke 24: 44-53

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

The Ascension of Jesus

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Third Hymn 389 *Like the murmur of the dove's song*

Sermon

Fourth Hymn: 300 *Hail the day that see him rise, Alleluia!*

Prayers of Intercession *(Rev'd Robert Selvakumar)*

The Lord's Prayer

Notices

Blessing of the Offering

Final Hymn 685 *In Christ there is no east or west*

Blessing

We thank Gillian Johnson for the lovely flowers this week.

Next Service: Sunday 28th May - 10.30am, Mrs Julie Gardner

NOTICES

Monday Focus

Dean Baldwin from *Bromley Well* will be giving a talk 'Eating well and drinking sensibly'. We are fortunate to have Dean return and give part two of a series of informative talks that he gives. The meeting will be held in the Wesley Room at 12.45 pm onwards. Cost £5pp for a sandwich lunch and refreshments. All are welcome! Rosemary: 07791 603 668.

Reminder: No Monday Focus meeting on the 29th May - Bank Holiday

Circuit Merger Meetings

There are two Q&A meetings coming up regarding the proposed circuit merger. They are on Sunday 4th June at New Eltham Methodist Church and Sunday 9th July at Bromley Methodist Church. Both meetings run from 12.30-2.30pm, tea and coffee will be provided, and you are invited to bring your own lunch.

All are welcome!

Thank you!

As you may remember, our 2022 Christmas tree festival raised money for two local charities and we've received the following message of thanks from Petts Wood Playgroup for Children with Special Needs:

This is absolutely wonderful news, thank you and the Church so much. We run at a deficit each year which we fill with the support of fundraisers like yourselves, so we can continue to provide our service.

PWPG was 'born' September 28th 1968 and supports families who have children with additional needs across the full range of difficulties. Please invite your members to visit our website www.pwpg.org.uk to find out a little more about our provision, our wonderful voluntary staff and our amazing children. Kind regards,

Larry Simpson, Manager

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.

Thursday Lunchtime Service

In June there will be a service on 1st June, but not on 15th June, as Duncan will be on leave. Zoom details for these services will be sent by email a day or two before the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Circuit Merger Q&A meeting: Sunday 4th June @ 12.30
(New Eltham MC)

Open Mic Night Friday 23rd June @ 7pm
- *music, singing, comedy and poetry* (Mottingham MC)
This will take place every 3rd Friday of the month – please see poster on noticeboard for more details

Circuit Merger Q&A meeting: Sunday 9th July @ 12.30
(Bromley MC)

Farewell to Deacon Maureen Spinks: Sunday 23rd July 2023 @ 5.00 pm
(Bromley Common MC)

Chislehurst Creates – Community Art Event Saturday 23rd September @ 1pm
(poster on noticeboard and more details to follow)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for the friends and family of Eileen Surguy, who sadly died earlier this week.

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Monica Faux, Pam Wallace, 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 the Church of the Annunciation.

