



Sunday 23rd December 2018
Chislehurst Methodist Church
Carols by Candlelight

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

CCLI95928

Prayer for the week

God who loves and who calls us to love;
from hardness to divine compassion, transform our hearts;
from heaviness to holy joy, transform our souls;
from prejudice to eternal truth, transform our minds;
from fear to faithful courage, transform us in strength;
that we might love our neighbour, witness to your Son,
and grow in your Spirit.
Amen.

Andrew Lunn, Manchester and Stockport District Chair



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

Please note that Duncan will be on annual leave between Christmas and New Year.



Church office: Sarah Ridgewell

Please note the church office will be closed from 2pm on Friday 21st December, until 3rd January.



Action for Children

On 9th December, we raised £400 for Action for Children, Carol Singing at the Glades in Bromley. Here is the team in action...congratulations and well done to everyone involved!



Sunday 23rd December 4pm, Carols by Candlelight
Preacher: Rev'd Duncan MacBean

**Please take this notice sheet
home with you**

CAROL SOLO

I wonder as I wander

BIDDING PRAYER AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

FIRST READING **Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19**

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
You shall not eat of it",
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

FIRST CAROL**217 Silent night, holy night****SECOND READING****The Promise**

The damage spreads quickly.
As the sun of his presence
slips away, dark fingers
spread their dismal grasp
into every corner of our lives.
Still we call to one another
like children, lost upon a midnight moor,
piping up at any distant glimmer
that might be lights, or torches,
expecting at last
the footsteps of our father,
come to find and bring us home.

SECOND CAROL**207 Jesus is the heart of Christmas****READING THREE****Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

THIRD CAROL**O little town of Bethlehem****READING FOUR****Micah 5: 2-4**

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

CHOIR

READING FIVE Come, Immanuel

Come, Immanuel, God with us to be.
Come down from paradise and occupy
this dirty stable of humanity.
Come and live rough, as we do: come and die.

Come and be lonely as an orphaned child.
Come to where grief is harvested and stored.
Come to where empty aged minds run wild.
Come to the hospice and the cancer ward.

Come, flee from tyrants as a refugee.
Come, be betrayed by those you counted friends.
Come and be tortured with no amnesty.
Come as the means to justify all ends.

Come and be broken like a Christmas toy.
Come, be completely human—then we'll know
your sorrow may bring hope of lasting joy
and God above is God with us below.

Written for the carol service at St John's, West Ealing in 2003. *Immanuel* is Hebrew
for God with us.

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FOURTH CAROL Hark the herald angels sing

READING SIX The skeptical shepherd

No, you go down and see what's what—
I'll stay and watch the flock.
They need some pastoral concern,
they've had a nasty shock.

Off they go, feet before brain,
just like a herd of sheep.
Fools rush in where angels fear
to tread in something deep.

Don't they see that it's fake news,
this bulletin tonight?
Why should God suddenly whip up
so much angel delight?

A baby lying in a manger,
destined to be king?
I've seen what happens to Messiahs:
it's not encouraging.

Peace on earth? Goodwill to men?
Just one more trick to knife us.
Why don't they sing that serenade
to Pilate and to Caiaphas?

They need some scapegoat, I expect,
to make the right impression,
so they've set up some poor innocent
to teach us all a lesson.

No, don't disturb the status quo,
that's not prudent behaviour.
There's priests and Romans everywhere:
none of them wants a Saviour.

I don't believe this "heavenly host",
the story's just a scam.
They'll string him up like mutton
and butcher him like lamb.

FIFTH CAROL

We three kings

READING SEVEN

The magi at the empty manger

First voice

Now that we've found
that the manger is empty
and the child that was born
moves on with our limbs,
we bring the world's riches—
like gold, brightly shining—
what will you do with them,

baby of Bethlehem?

Will we hoard them all selfishly
in our own heaven,
squander them rashly
while pleasures remain,
or spend them all lovingly
for friend and stranger,
trading our talents
for everyone's gain?

Second voice

Now that we've found
that the manger is empty
and the child that was born
thinks on through our minds,
we bring the world's prayers—
like incense, slow rising—
what will you do with them,
baby of Bethlehem?

Will we answer them selfishly,
taking our profit,
using them ruthlessly,
priming our power,
or hear them all lovingly,
each need embracing,
listening patiently
hour after hour?

Third voice

Now that we've found
that the manger is empty
and the child that was born
lives on till our deaths,
we bring the world's hopes—
like myrrh, all embalming—
what will you do with them,
baby of Bethlehem?

Will we crush them all selfishly,

scornful in judgment,
scatter them recklessly
on winds of strife,
or sow them all lovingly
ground in endurance,
seeds of your suffering,
growing to life?

Written for the carol service at St John's, West Ealing in 2017. Performed by three speakers each holding out a box representing one of the gifts, and placing them in an empty manger at the end of each voice.
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CHOIR

CHILDRENS CAROL Away in a manger

READING EIGHT John 1: 1-14 (The Message)

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
 God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
 in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
 nothing—not one thing!—
 came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
 and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
 the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Life-Light was the real thing:
 Every person entering Life
 he brings into Light.
He was in the world,
 the world was there through him,
 and yet the world didn't even notice.
He came to his own people,
 but they didn't want him.
But whoever did want him,
 who believed he was who he claimed
 and would do what he said,
He made to be their true selves,
 their child-of-God selves.

These are the God-begotten,
not blood-begotten,
not flesh-begotten,
not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighbourhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

PRAYERS

FINAL CAROL

O come all ye faithful

BENEDICTION

Next Service: Tuesday 25th December, 11am, Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Next Sunday: 30th December, 10.30am, Songs of Praise service

SONGS OF PRAISE, 30th December. We will be having our Songs of Praise service on 30th December. Please let the Stewards have your favourite hymn, or a poem to include as part of this service.

CAROL SERVICE COLLECTION, kindly note that money received in the envelopes today will, as usual be allocated to church funds. The cash donated by open collection will be donated to the Methodist Relief and Development charity - **All We Can:**

An international development and emergency relief organisation, helping find solutions to poverty in some of the world's poorest communities, to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice.



Methodist
relief and
development

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, many thanks for all the hard work that went into this year's Christmas tree festival, and the generous donations for our chosen charity, Bromley Y. The total received is: £955.75.



SOCIAL MEDIA, we now have a church Instagram profile, as well as Facebook. You can find us on Instagram via @chislehurstmethodistc.

Also, don't forget to like and follow the circuit Facebook page @orpchis.

PRAYER AND GREETINGS TREE, As in previous years, the Dawe Housegroup's Christmas tree is in the courtyard. This will be for anyone using the Church premises to

write a prayer or send a greeting. There will be cards available nearby. We hope Church members will use this as an opportunity to write Christmas Greetings to other member instead of sending individual cards, and to give a donation to The Bible Society in lieu of the cost of buying cards and postage. Bible Society envelopes will be available, please hand in any donations to a steward or the office. Thank you.

CONTACT, The new December edition of *Contact* is available on the piano, please take a copy, they are not named on this occasion. The format has been re-designed so we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback!

THURSDAY SERVICES, The next Thursday lunchtime service will be at 12.45pm on 3rd January. A friendly, informal 30 minutes of meditative music, prayer, Bible reading and reflection. After the service we gather for a sandwich lunch (£4).

FIJIAN METHODIST FELLOWSHIP worship at our church every 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month. Their next dates are 6th & 13th January.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 25th December

Christmas day family toy service, 11am, CMC

Saturday 5th January

Aladdin Pantomime, New Eltham Methodist Church, 3pm

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have particular need for our prayers, in particular Eileen Lidinson, Pam Giles, Elizabeth Haftke, Myrtle and Neill Truman. All our friends who are in care homes, particularly Les Giles and Arthur Hayes.

All those who have birthdays this month: William Cowie, Regina Olaifa, Jessica Sawyer, Ryan Jefferies, Pheobe Bayliss, Alfie Watt, Edward Bayliss, Kaleb Abebe.

When visiting those who can't get to church, please do take them a Notice Sheet. They are always welcome.

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

