

CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH
CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
"Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God"

No. 138. The Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2022

Romans 15.4-13

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; 10 and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; 11 and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; 12 and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Psalm 72, Paraphrased (*sung as a congregation*)

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| 1. O God, with holy righteousness
sustain your royal son,
that he may help your suffering folk
and see your justice done.
Through all the earth, from shore to shore,
his kingdom shall extend;
his enemies shall lick the dust.
his reign shall never end. | 2. Rulers and kings of every land
shall bow before his throne;
and all the nations of the world
shall make his will their own.
For he shall rescue those in need,
protect the frightened poor
and, in the face of every threat,
make fragile lives secure. |
| 3. Long may his name last like the sun,
long be his fame expressed
as people for like blessing pray
who know him as God's blessed.
And blessed be God, for God alone
brings wondrous things to birth;
for ever may God's name be praised
whose glory fills the earth. | |

Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Prayers

With the Anglican Communion: *The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, Archbishop Michael Lewis.*

Our charity: *The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF), an organisation of over 600 bereaved Palestinians and Israeli families 'identifying with a call to prevent bereavement, to promote dialogue, tolerance, reconciliation and peace.'*

In our deanery: *Keasden St Matthew. Our community:* *The Womens Institute.*

Those in ill health: *Robert Hird, Joan Robson, Peter Read.*

Those who have died: *Barry Pearson.*

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Music in today's morning services
Sunday 4th December

9:30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion; 11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion

Opening Hymn: 12 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Psalm 72, Sung: O God, with holy righteousness (See words on p.1.)

John L Bell and Graham Maule ©WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow

Hymn Before Communion: 3 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Closing Hymn: 9 Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending



The Jordan River between Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria and Jordan. Source: researchgate.net

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EVENTS

Saturday 10th December: Christmas Coffee Morning

10.30am to 12 noon, St Matthew's Church Keasden

Monday 12th December: Austwick School Christingle Service

2.00pm, St James' Church Clapham

Thursday 15th December: Carol Singing around Keasden

Meet at St Matthew's Church 6.15pm

Tuesday 20th December 6.30pm Carol Singing on Newby Green

Friday 23rd December 6.30pm Carol Singing at The Lake House, Clapham

Sunday 1st January: Keasden 150 Parish Walk

Celebrating the beginning of Keasden's 150th Anniversary year of events

Meet Keasden Head track end 10.30am or Keasden Head Farm 11.00am

CHURCH SERVICES: DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Please see Page 3 for a list of other seasonal events you're invited to join

Sunday 11th December

- 9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion;
7.00 **Clapham** Joint Clapham and Newby Carol Service

Sunday 18th December

- 9:30 **Austwick** Short Holy Communion;
11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion;
4.00 **Austwick** Carol Service *preceded by carols outside church at 3.40pm*;
7.00 **Eldroth** Nativity and Carol Service

Thursday 22nd December

- 7.00pm **Keasden** Carols around the Crib

Christmas Eve 24th December

- 3.00 **Austwick** Crib Service;
5.00 **Clapham** Crib Service *followed by a short Holy Communion*;
11.30pm **Austwick** Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December

- 9:30 **Eldroth** Christmas Family Communion
11:00 **Keasden** Christmas Family Communion

The First Sunday of Christmas, 1st January

- 9.30am **Eldroth** Benefice New Year Holy Communion

The Epiphany, 8th January

- 9.30am **Austwick** Three Kings Holy Communion;
11:00 **Keasden** Holy Communion

Sunday 15th January

- 9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion;
11:00 **Clapham** Easy Church;
6:30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd January

- 9:30 **Austwick** Holy Communion;
11:00 **Clapham** Holy Communion;
7:00 **Keasden** Evening Service

Sunday 29th January

- 10:30 **Austwick** Messy Church;
7:00 **Clapham New Inn** Church in the Pub

Also each Wednesday (except 28th December)

- 10.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion