

CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

"Strengthen the weak hands, make firm the feeble knees...sorrow and sighing shall flee away"

No.139. The Third Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2022

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



Psalm 80.1-8

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
- 4 Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 5 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.**
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- Amen**

Matthew 11.2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Prayers

With the Anglican Communion: *The Anglican Church of Kenya, Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit. In our deanery: Coniston Cold St Peter, Revd Andrew Steer. Our charity: The Children's Society, fighting for the hope and happiness of young people threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect.*

In our community: *those who find Christmas hard.*

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

Those who have died: *Ian Woodburn.*

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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 service

Sunday 11th December 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion

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

Canticle: Isaiah 12: We Shall Draw Water (a recording: see words below)

Hymn Before Communion: 408 Love divine, all loves excelling

Closing Hymn: 10 Long ago, prophets knew

Also, come this evening: 7.00 Clapham Joint Clapham and Newby Carol Service

*We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.*

Truly God is our salvation,
We trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song;
He became our Saviour.
We shall draw water joyfully...

Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;
Give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all the nations;
Proclaim his greatness.
We shall draw water joyfully...

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord
For he has done glorious deeds.
Make known his works to all the earth;
People of Zion, sing for joy; for great in your midst,
Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
We shall draw water joyfully...

Canticle, Isaiah 12: Paul Inwood © 1986. From OCP Journeysongs Third Edition

ALL OUR SEASONAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

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 **Keasden** 6.15pm

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

Tuesday 20th December 6.30pm Carol Singing on Newby Green

Thursday 22nd December

7.00pm **Keasden** Carols around the Crib

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

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**; 11:00 **Keasden** Christmas Family Communion

The First Sunday of Christmas, 1st January

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

followed immediately by Keasden 150 New Year 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

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' (short, informal worship);

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