

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

No.288 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and 28 December 2025

24th December: Christmas Eve

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

25th December: Christmas Day

9.30 Eldroth Family Communion; **11.00 Keasden** Family Communion

Isaiah 9.2-7

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. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and

who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel

said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.**
3 Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
**4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**
5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; it is the Lord who made the heavens.
**6 Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.**
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**
9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
**He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**
11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
**12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**
13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth. **Amen**

Christmas Eve

Collect

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

Music (from Bethlehem Carol Sheets)

Opening hymn:

19 Once in royal David's city

Gradual hymn:

14 It came upon the midnight clear

Hymn before Communion:

10 Hark! The herald-angels sing

Closing hymn: 12 O come, all ye faithful

Christmas Day

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

Music (from Bethlehem Carol Sheets)

Opening hymn: 12 O come all ye faithful

Gradual hymn: 42 While shepherds watched

Hymn before Communion:

8 See amid the winter's snow

Closing hymn:

10 Hark! The herald angels sing

Hebrews 2.10–end

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' 13 And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he

himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.



Sliman Mansour; Children of Palestine, 1990

Matthew 2.13–end

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and

loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'

21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Psalm 148

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together;
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Alleluia. Amen

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own
image, and yet more wonderfully restored
us through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity, so we may share the life of his
divinity; who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the
life of an earthly home: help your Church
to live as one family, united in love and
obedience, and bring us all at last to our
home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen**

THE COVENTRY CAROL

Robert Croo, 1534

*Lully, lulla,
thou little tiny child,
by by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too,
how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor youngling,
for whom we do sing
by by, lully lullay?

Herod the king,
in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might,
in his own sight,
all young children to slay.

That woe is me,
poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting
neither say nor sing
by by, lully lullay!



Eric Gill, *Slaughter of the Innocents*, 1914

Music for Sunday 28 December

Opening hymn: 24 Christians awake!

Gradual hymn: 39 Unto us a boy is born!

Recorded music in sermon:

The Coventry Carol; performed by Maddy
Prior & The Carnival Band from the collection
A Tapestry of Carols, 1987

Hymn before Communion:

28 In the bleak midwinter

Closing hymn:

29 It came upon the midnight clear