

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

'He came to his own, and... to all who did receive him, he gave power to become children of God.'

No.289. The Second Sunday of Christmas, 4 January 2026

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

Ephesians 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure

that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of

him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy

Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.



Sliman Mansour, *The Nazarene*, 1993

Psalms 147.13–21

13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blest your children within you.

15 He has established peace in your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends forth his command to the earth
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;
who can endure his frost?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israel.

21 He has not dealt so with any other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Alleluia. Amen



John 1.1–5, 9–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of

God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."'))

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Prayers

The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Archbishop Albert Chama.

Those who have died: Dorothy Booth

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of
your incarnate Word, and shown us the
fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in
his love that we may know the fullness
of his joy; who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion prayer

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in
heaven, now and for ever. **Amen**

Music in today's services

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

Opening hymn: Lord, for the years (words below)

Gradual hymn: **64** Be thou my guardian and my guide

Hymn before Communion: **52** O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Closing hymn: **55** Hail to the Lord's anointed

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,

urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

All Our Church Services: New Year to Lent

4 January *Christmas 2*

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church

11 January *The Epiphany*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

18 January *Epiphany 2*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Easy Church

3.00 Eldroth Evening Prayer

25 January *Epiphany 3*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

(7.00 Keasden Community Church tbc)

1 February *Epiphany 4*

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church

8 February *2 before Lent*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

15 February *1 before Lent*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Easy Church

3.00 Eldroth Evening Prayer

18 February *Ash Wednesday*

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion

with the imposition of ashes

22 February *Lent 1*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

7.00 Keasden Pancake Praise

Plus, each Wednesday:

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)