



# Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday 13 December 2020



### 10:30am: Morning Worship and Holy Communion with the Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live on YouTube: [youtu.be/HhGROSp3AFY](https://youtu.be/HhGROSp3AFY) or join on Zoom: [bit.ly/2J5ivY8](https://bit.ly/2J5ivY8)

*NB – No evening service this week*

## Prayers

Please pray for Emma, for our Stewards; for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of all, and for the continued health of our key workers and all the National Health Service, on whom we depend so much now, and at all times.

Please pray also for those of our Church family who are unwell or finding their mobility limited and consider whether they might welcome a call from friends.

*“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” Peter 5:10*

## Advent 3

*We light the first candle to say that we believe in the healing light of God.*

*We light the second candle to affirm that we believe in the power of forgiving love.*

*We kindle the third candle to remember all who are unjustly imprisoned and those who suffer for their faith around the world.*



*We believe it is God's will to bring all into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

## Notices

**The Church is now open for congregational worship.** It's been quite a while since we were able to worship together in person, and it is very possible that you might like to wait a few more weeks before coming back yourself. That's absolutely fine, and you will continue to get your NewsSheet delivered.

There are a few changes required by the Government to help protect you if you do come; there will be door Stewards there to help you of course.

- Masks must be worn by everyone, except the preacher and readers when speaking (unless you are exempt of course).
- The pews are marked out to help you, or your family group, sit at least 2metres apart – not all pews are in use.
- Singing is not allowed (you can hum or mime!)
- No 'in-pew' collection, but there will be bowls for envelopes etc on your way out.

**The Deadlines for donations to the specific Christmas appeals by Whitechapel and Foodbank** have now passed, but the usual general donations may now be left at the bottom of the stairwell at Church, or in the porch of 198 Stoneleigh Park Road, and they will be taken forward from there. Should you wish to donate directly to Whitechapel by cheque, their address is 212 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ; for Foodbank it's Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG. *Robin*

## Around the Trolley

**Christmas cards.** Last week we mentioned that we could not organise Christmas Card exchanges through the Church this year (many other Churches have come to the same conclusion.) And then I had a call from Jill, who has asked that I include “best wishes from her and her family to all friends at Stoneleigh, a Happy Christmas and hopes for a better year in 2021.”

So, if anyone else wants to put their wishes in the NewsSheet for next week, 20<sup>th</sup> December, I would be happy to add them to this section. You can email your message, send a note or letter to 198 Stoneleigh Park Road, KT19 0RQ, or just give us a ring on 020 8393 2155. Anything I get before Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> I should be able to include – the 20<sup>th</sup> will be the last NewsSheet this year!

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!** Conquest Art has missed out on so many things this year including our Annual Meeting and our Exhibition. At the Annual Meeting we usually choose the winners of the Lady Shepperd Award - for the three best pictures in the exhibition on a theme set by our Patron, Lady Shepperd, who has supported Conquest Art for many years. This year the theme was ‘A sunny autumn’, but of course the exhibition did not take place. However, now that we have our wonderful co-ordinator Tina back from furlough working just a few hours a month, we have decided to put the paintings onto our CA website and ask you all to vote for your favourite; the three winners will be announced in the New Year. It's a very easy process, so please take a look at [conquestart.org/sunny-autumn/](http://conquestart.org/sunny-autumn/) and cast your vote (there is no clue as to the painters!); there is much else to see on the website so please pay us a visit. Thanks, *Lesley*

**Carol Concert** - Philippa's choir in Leeds, the Clothworkers Consort, has released their Christmas Concert at [youtu.be/MJhW5IzSaWM](https://youtu.be/MJhW5IzSaWM). - *Vivienne*

**Tri-walker & Zimmer** – we have been given these items for Church use – at the moment they are in the Room 1 store but will join the wheelchair in a more central position in due course. *Robin*

## Contact Details

**Contact:** Jeananne (07729 028850) - [contact@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:contact@stoneleighmethodist.church)

**All items for future NewsSheets** – to [news@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:news@stoneleighmethodist.church) or phone 020 8393 2155

### Online Services etc

**Our weekly News/Service sheet** is delivered to every member, and also a YouTube or Zoom Sunday Service is available to those able to receive it. A DVD copy is also available – contact Jeananne.

**Christ Church with St Philip**, 10:00am - [facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip](https://facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip).

**Surbiton Hill Methodist Church**, 10:30am Sunday at [shmc.online.church](http://shmc.online.church).

**The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer (10:00am)** by Zoom is open to all. It's followed by Chat Time and virtual tea/coffee from 10:45-11:15. Email to [publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk) by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

# Morning Worship – Sunday 13 December 10.30am

*Third Sunday in Advent. Holy Communion led by the Rev Emma Cusack.*

Watch live on YouTube: [youtu.be/HhGROSp3AFY](https://youtu.be/HhGROSp3AFY) or join on Zoom: [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)

To join the Morning Service through Zoom go to [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)  
and if prompted, use Meeting ID: **874 6773 6490**, and Passcode **702336**.

On your home phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by # (hash) when prompted; just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

And that's it: you should be connected and are able to listen into the service.  
Simply hang up when the service finishes, or whenever you want to leave.

To unmute yourself during the post-service chat time, press \*6

## Call to Worship

(WGRG)

We meet in the name of God  
Creator of the universe, source of true humanity  
Mother and father of all.  
We meet in the name of Jesus  
Word made flesh  
Saviour of fallen humanity  
Lover of all. **Amen**

## Advent Candles – Third Sunday in Advent

(Roots)

*The first Advent candle is lit:*

We light the first candle to say that we believe in the healing light of God.

*The second Advent candle is lit:*

We light the second candle to affirm that we believe in the power of forgiving love.

*The third Advent candle is lit:*

We kindle the third candle to remember all who are unjustly imprisoned  
and those who suffer for their faith around the world.

We believe it is God's will to bring all into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 171

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)  
Public Domain

## Prayers of Confession

(WGRG)

Gather us in,  
the lost and the lonely  
The broken and breaking  
The tired and the aching  
who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in,  
the done and the doubting  
The wishing and wondering  
The puzzled and pondering  
Who long for the company found at your feast. **Amen**

## Reading 1: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

(NRSV)

### The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## Reflective music

### Reading 2: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

(NRSV)

#### The Testimony of John the Baptist

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Sermon

### Prayers of Intercession

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

## Holy Communion

(WGRG)

Jesus Christ, who sat at our tables now invites us to be guests at his;  
What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did.  
To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience  
he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night on which he was betrayed and as they were sitting at meal,  
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying,  
"This is my body, it is broken for you.  
Do this to remember me."

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said,  
"This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death.  
Drink this all of you to remember me".

So now we do as Jesus did.  
We take this bread and this wine,  
the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour  
In these, Jesus has promised to be present;  
**Through these, Christ can make us whole.**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread;  
He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup;  
So take this bread and this wine  
In them God comes to us so that we may come to God. **Amen**

## Distribution

Let us pray.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment,  
This meal, these people, we give ourselves to you  
Take us out to live as changed people  
because we have shared the Living Bread  
and cannot remain the same,  
So Lord, may we live to your glory,  
Both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. **Amen**

## Offertory Prayer

## **Closing Prayer**

Christ's food in our souls,  
Our food shared like his,  
Christ's life in our hands,  
Our lives shaped by his,  
Christ's love in our hearts,  
Our love warmed through his  
Christ's peace on our path,  
Our path following his. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore, Amen

## **Hymn: Singing the Faith 264**

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Make way, make way,  
for the King of kings;  
make way, make way,  
and let his Kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall!

Graham Kendrick  
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