



**GODALMING UNITED CHURCH**  
(Methodist & United Reformed)

## SERVICE FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 and notices for the coming week

The Second Sunday of Advent and familiar readings from Isaiah and Mark, so rather than repeating words from previous years I have looked elsewhere for my thoughts this week. The choice of hymns for the service looked a good place to start, beginning with 'Hills of the North rejoice'. Oh dear, bad idea. The first site for the hymn started with a rant, 31 pages long "Bad things in new hymn books and other sad tales- why, oh why do the editors of hymn books think that it is a good idea to try to improve on the poetry of the original hymn writers and poets? And why, oh why, do churches buy new hymn books that have revised the old hymns and substituted garbage for fine words?" Clearly an issue to rank with pews and seats. Move on quickly.

Second choice, 'The great love of God is revealed in the Son', not known to me (of course you know it, I can hear people saying). Much safer here. Written by a fairly prolific hymn writer from Sri Lanka who became a President of The World Council of Churches. His sources for the hymn – John, Ephesians, Isaiah, Matthew, Ezekiel and Romans so finding all of these references should keep everyone occupied over Sunday lunch.

I have already referred to the familiarity of today's readings so the same must be said about 'Joy to the World', first published by Isaac Watts in 1719 (with music attributed for many years, but no longer, to Handel) in his collection 'The Psalms of David. Imitated in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state and worship'. As of the late C20th it was the most published hymn in North America.

'There's a light upon the mountains' was written by Henry Burton who the Dictionary of Hymnology (1907) describes as 'after labouring as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, returned to England and entered the Wesleyan Ministry where he has since laboured'. But a further hymn for lunchtime discussion with references from Isaiah, Nahum, Zachariah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Colossians and Hebrews - with sources this long does one even need a sermon?

So finally, 'It came upon the midnight clear' written by Edmund Sears, an American Unitarian pastor, in 1839 during a period of personal melancholy and with news of revolution in Europe and the United States war with Mexico fresh in his mind, with the world as he saw it dark, full of sin and strife and not hearing the Christian message. Any different today?

*Alan Steele*

Rev Paul Hulme is preaching this morning at West Horsley Methodist Church

**9.00-10.15am eMerge (Fairtrade Sunday breakfast)**

***PRAYER FOR THE WEEK***

The deepest things that have come down to us ‘across the bridges of meaningful conversation’ (John O’Donohue): in our conversations, may we find meetings of hearts and minds as well as ‘catching up’ and telling our news, and learn to listen out for those silences that hide the things people would say if they could. Amen

Today’s stewards are

Vestry Steward Alison Briscoe

Duty Steward Maurice Illman

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children’s area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

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**10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**

	Led by	Rev Dr Claire Potter
Organist:		Keith Nye
Hosts:		the Calvert family
Sound System:		John Drake
Projection steward:		Julie Rowling

Welcome and notices

Call to Worship

**HYMN (StF) 330 Joy to the World**

Two Advent Candles will be lit during the singing of the hymn

Prayers of adoration

Prayers of confession

Conversation with Weysiders

**HYMN (StF) 172 Hills of the north, rejoice,**

Prayer as the young people leave

Readings

Isaiah Ch. 40 v.1-11 (p.724) read by Rodney Calvert

Mark Ch. 1 v.1-8 (p.1002) read by Alison Calvert

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN (H&P) 45 The great love of God is revealed in the Son**  
*(Tune ii Normandy)*

Sermon

**HYMN (StF) 188 There's a light upon the mountains,**

Prayers of intercession

Bidding: "Your kingdom come"

Response: **"Your will be done"**

The Lord's Prayer

Collection and dedication of the Offertory *(congregation please stand)*

**HYMN (StF) 205 It came upon the midnight clear**

Blessing

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Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink  
of squash in the River Room after the service.  
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**The Christmas Tree is in the foyer and cards are available to hang on the tree with your personal Christmas greetings. A donation would be gratefully received for The Gambian sight appeal for removal of cataracts.**

Today 2.30 -5.30pm Pantomime rehearsal

Una Cooper would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and visits this last year - she feels much blessed.

**Saturday December 16th 3-5pm Christingle-making in the Hall –**  
if you are able to help please bring a small sharp knife.  
Messy Church "Christmas is Coming" will take place simultaneously.

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DIARY FOR THE WEEK UP TO SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Monday Evening group (Chancel Room)

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm Brownies (*Alison tel:422841*)

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Godaltots (*Jacky tel: 423768*)  
10.30-11.30am Major Minors rehearsal (Church)  
12.15 for 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship at the Jack Phillips, - all welcome  
2.00-5.00pm Christmas Wreath Making (River Room)

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup>  
12.15 for 12.30pm Advent Reflections at St. Mary's, Guildford  
Little Town, Big Story – How silently, how silently - Lyn McKay  
followed by a bread & soup lunch  
4.30pm Rainbows (*Julie tel:428701*)  
7.30pm Scouts (*Grahame tel: 01420 475773*)

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am–2.00pm Church open for private prayer  
12-1.30pm Lunches  
2.15 for 2.30pm QUI discussion group - all are welcome  
2.00 – 5.00pm Major Minors Christmas Sing-a-long (Church, Hall &  
River Room)  
6.00pm Music Kids (*Barbara tel:421268*)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 3.00-5.00pm Messy Church, including making christingles  
2.30-4.45pm Tea and Concert at Cranleigh Methodist Church  
7.00pm Godalming Band & Godalming Youth Band  
Christmas Concert (Church)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**9.00-10.15am eMerge – Fairtrade Sunday breakfast**  
**10.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion – Rev Paul Hulme**  
**6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:**

Minister	Rev Paul Hulme	01483 414 709
Church Secretary	Sylvia	01483 423 261
Pastoral Assistant	Eileen	01483 420 459
Senior Steward	Alan	01483 860 683
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