

# Brighton Lutheran Mission

The Parsonage, 65 Furzehall Avenue, Fareham, PO16 8UD

[www.oslc.org.uk](http://www.oslc.org.uk)

Pastor: Rev. Tapani Simojoki

Tel: 01329 822832 Mob: 07825 447475

e-mail: [pastor@oslc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@oslc.org.uk)

## Welcome to Brighton Lutheran Mission!

We are delighted to have you with us this evening to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea after the service.

*If you are worshipping us for the first time and would like to receive Holy Communion, please speak to the pastor before the service.*

**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

**10 January 2016**

**Hymns: 395:1–3, 410, 402, 395:4–6**

### Catechism Reading

- P** The Lord's Prayer, the Third Petition
- C** **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**
- P** How is God's will done?
- C** **God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

### In Our Prayers

Bristol & Cheltenham Lutheran Missions, Prs. Bessel & Flor; ELCE Commission on Theological & Social Concerns; Pr. Stilve & family; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Somali Christian Mission, Mohamed Gurhan; Holland Road Baptist Church, Pr. Treneer

## **Hymn of the Day: O Mornings Star, How Fair and Bright**

This hymn, by Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) is one of the greatest Lutheran hymns, as we can tell from its nickname, “Queen of the Chorales” (the Nicolai’s other famous hymn, “Wake, Awake” being the “King of the Chorales”).

Nicolai described his text as “a Spiritual bridal song of the believing soul concerning her Heavenly Bridegroom, founded in the 45<sup>th</sup> Psalm of the Prophet David”. He wrote the text in 1597, the year after the Black Plague had ravaged Germany.

Nicolai lived an eventful life—he fled from the Spanish army, sparred with Roman Catholic and Calvinist opponents, and ministered to plague-stricken congregations. Educated at Wittenberg University, he was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1583 in the city of Herdecke. However, he was soon at odds with the Roman Catholic town council, and when Spanish troops arrived to re-establish Roman dominance, Nicolai fled. In 1588 he became chief pastor at Altwildungen and court preacher to Countess Argaretha of Waldeck. During that time Nicolai battled with Calvinists, who disagreed with him about the theology of the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. These doctrinal controversies were renewed when he served the church in Unna, Westphalia. During his time as a pastor there, the plague struck twice, and Nicolai wrote both “O Morning Star” and “Wake, Awake”. Nicolai’s last years were spent as Pastor of St. Katherine’s Church in Hamburg.

This hymn, full of Old Testament names for the Messiah, meditates on the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ, and rejoices in the manifold ways in which the love of God is revealed in Jesus yesterday, today and forever.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**  
**THE LARGE CATECHISM**  
**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: THE THIRD COMMANDMENT**

*You shall sanctify the holy day.*

How, then, does such sanctification take place? Not like this: sitting behind the stove and doing no rough work, or adorning ourselves with a wreath and putting on our best clothes. But as said above, we occupy ourselves with God's Word and exercise ourselves in the Word.

Indeed, we Christians ought always to keep such a holy day and be occupied with nothing but holy things. This means we should daily be engaged with God's Word and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips (Psalm 119:11-13). But as said above, since we do not always have free time, we must devote several hours a week for the sake of the young, or at least a day for the sake of the entire multitude, to being concerned about this alone. We must especially teach the use of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and so direct our whole life and being according to God's Word. 90] At whatever time, then, this is being observed and practised, there a true holy day is being kept. Other things shall not be called a Christians' holy day. For, indeed, non-Christians can also stop working and be idle, ... but they do not keep a holy day in true holiness because they do not preach or use God's Word but teach and live contrary to it.

God's Word is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries. Yes, it is the only one we Christians know and have... . God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies everything (1 Timothy 4:5). By the Word even all the saints themselves were sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11). Whenever God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or meditated upon, then the person, day, and work are sanctified. This is not because of the outward work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all. Therefore I constantly say that all our life and work must be guided by God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled.

On the contrary, any observance or work that is practised without God's Word is unholy before God. This is true no matter how brilliantly a work may shine, ... The force and power of this commandment lies not in the resting, but in the sanctifying, so that a special holy exercise belongs to this day... by which a person is himself made holy. This is done ... only through God's Word. Paragraphs 88–94

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### This week

Today	12.15 pm	Voters' Assembly
	4.30 pm	Divine Service & Bible study at Brighton Mission
Wed	10.30 am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2 pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
	6.45 pm	Divine Service (St. Francis)—Baptism of Our Lord
Sun	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	6 pm	Youth Club

### This Month

20 Jan	10.30 am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7.30 pm	Bible study at the Parsonage
24 Jan	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	3 pm	Bible study at Oxford Mission
	4.30 pm	Pastor at Oxford Mission
27 Jan	10.30 am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2 pm	Devotion at Willow Tree Lodge & Merry Hall
	7.30 pm	Bible study at the Parsonage
30 Jan	5.30 pm	Saturday Supper (Scout Hall) with Westfield House Students
31 Jan	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)—Westfield House Sunday

**God willing, the next service at Brighton Mission  
will be held on 14 February.**

**Bible studies in Fareham resume on Wednesday, 20 January at 7.30 pm.**

**You can join the Bible studies held in Fareham via your computer or  
smartphone. Ask the pastor for details.**