

**Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2022:** Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.*



**Psalm set for today:** Psalm 16

**Hymn** StF 536 H&P 25

He's got the whole world in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand / he's got you and me, sister, in his hand.  
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand / he's got everybody here in his hand.  
He's got everybody here in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.  
He's got the whole world in his hand / he's got the whole world in his hand.

African-American traditional song CCL no. 667973

### **Prayer**

For creating our world and everything in it,  
For all the blessings that you have given,  
For all the times that you have been with us,  
For all the strength and comfort that you have imparted,  
We thank you, good Lord.



**Gospel Reading set for today:** Luke 9 v 51 – 62

### **To think about**

What are the four reasons not to follow Jesus mentioned in the gospel passage?  
And what is the answer of Jesus to each?

### **Message from a Circuit friend**

"I've started so I'll finish!" A well-known phrase from the Mastermind quiz show. If the question master has started reading a question when the time is up, he will complete it, after saying, "I've started so I'll finish". We could apply that same phrase to many other situations. I wonder how often we begin a task, a hobby or an interest with great enthusiasm, then tire of it, and give up. It's natural to turn to other interests as we grow, or perhaps we are no longer physically able to continue what we once enjoyed. However, in one area of life it really is important to keep to the rule of, "I've started so I'll finish". In the gospel reading, Jesus has started on his journey to Jerusalem, and he means to finish it, whatever problems he may meet on the way. He was not concerned to take revenge on the Samaritan village that refused to welcome him as he passed through, for he had come to save life, not to destroy. As he travels on, he meets others on his way, who would follow him, "But, not right now". They had valid reasons for hesitating, but as Jesus told them, the cultural traditions and the family ties, are of secondary importance to proclaiming the kingdom of God, and they must not hold people back from following him. As we travel on in our Christian life, we will be tested time and time again, with worldly demands on us, and choices to be made, but like Jesus we need to be prepared to finish what we started. The only way in life when we are called to follow him, is to keep looking straight ahead, with our eyes fixed on him, and, like the man who wants to plough a straight furrow, there can be no looking back.

**Elsie Warby (Local Preacher, and member of Watton Methodist Church)**

## **Hymn StF 248 H&P 136**

I heard the voice of Jesus say: 'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.'

I came to Jesus as I was / weary and worn and sad,  
I found in him a resting-place / and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: 'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live.'

I came to Jesus, and I drank / of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived / and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: 'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise / and all your day be bright.'

I looked to Jesus, and I found / in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk / till travelling days are done.

Horatius N. Bonar (1808 – 1889)

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray for those at the Methodist Conference in Telford, Shropshire and for all those who will be ordained at special services today. Pray for the ordinands, their families and the churches which they serve. Pray for the discussions, debates and decisions of the Conference that will take place Mon – Thurs: to follow the proceedings online, see below.

We pray for Malcolm & Pippa Cook visiting their charity in Romania.

Next: Pray for the world, for our country, for your community, for yourself and those you love.

## **Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

### **Hymn from Methodist 'Singing the Faith Plus' website**

God who sets us on a journey / to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people / in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward / stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour / marks the way that Christ defined.

End our longing for the old days / grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey / there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding / excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential / choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle / to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort / pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge / you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey / Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine (1937 – 2001) ©Mervyn Dine reproduced with permission for worship only

**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

**Connexional News:** The Methodist Conference meets from June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> in Telford, Shropshire. Events can be followed through the Methodist website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk). Sam Parfitt (from our circuit) is one of the East Anglia District representatives and she will be keeping a diary of her first-time experience for us (which will be posted regularly on our circuit website [www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk)).

**Circuit News:** Our Circuit Administrator, Mandy, is leaving the job at the end of August (after 4 years). She was thanked at the recent Circuit Meeting – with flowers and a big round of applause! If anyone knows of anyone who might be interested in this job, from September, for 12 hours a week, please get in touch with Mandy, Rev Jacqui or Aileen Fox. We are hoping to find Mandy's replacement from amongst the wider Methodist Circuit family.