

Sunday 17th March 2024: Fifth Sunday in Lent

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



StF 513 'Take this moment, sign and space' by John Bell (b 1949) & Graham Maule (1958 – 2019)

Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

Old Testament Reading set for today: Jeremiah 31 v 31 – 34

To think about

God prophesies through Jeremiah that 'the days are coming' when there will be a new covenant – written in people's hearts instead of in a law book. How was this fulfilled in Jesus, do you think?

Gospel reading set for today: John 12 v 20 – 33

StF 507 H&P 536 'O for a heart to praise my God' by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Message from a Circuit Friend

The words Jesus spoke after some Greeks came asking to speak with him are "Now the hour has come when the Son of Man will be glorified." This is the time for Jesus to brace himself and spiritually prepare for what will happen to him: that crucifixion awaits and there is no turning back. Why is it said when the Greeks visit? Perhaps it is because it will matter to the Gentile world as well as for the Jews, for his mission for the future will be for the Christian as for the Jew.

Jesus has been preparing the disciples for his death in the latter part of his ministry. The first occurrence was after Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. The second was after the Transfiguration when Jesus is speaking with Moses, Elijah and God who says, "This is my own dear son – listen to him." But, Peter rebukes Jesus, for he cannot tolerate such words. Jesus, in return, says that he is being Satan in what Peter is saying and stands for. The third time is after the Passover meal when Peter is ready to die in order to stop Jesus being killed. Jesus replies to Peter that when the cock crows twice he will deny him three times. It seems that only John is ready to stand by Jesus and follow him into the court room to hear the verdict. Was St John rewarded by not being martyred in later times but told to look after Jesus' mother?

Passion Sunday is the time for all our Lenten prayers and worship to reach a climax and prepare ourselves along with Christ, to meet the death of our beloved Lord and travel with him to Golgotha, ready to meet our God.

Della Collingwood (Local Preacher and member of Wells Methodist Church)

StF 277 H&P 173 'My song is love unknown' by Samuel Crossman (c. 1624 – 1683)

Collect for the fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

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

StF 327 MP 366 'Jesus is King' by Wendy Churchill (b unknown)

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

Circuit News: We are very pleased that Rev Jonny has been recommended for ordination by recent Methodist processes. The ordination service will be in Leeds on Sunday 30th June (as part of the Methodist Conference) but before that there will be a Testimony Service (at which Jonny gives testimony to God's call) on Saturday 15th June in Holt Methodist Church. Further details nearer the time.