

Sunday 14th July 2024: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



StF 21 H&P 486 'Born in song' by Brian Hoare (born 1935)

Opening Prayer

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

Psalm set for today: Psalm 24

Gospel Reading set for today: Mark 6 v 14 – 29

To think about

What, if anything (!), can be learnt from this story? About God? About people? About us?

StF 349 H&P 221 'I am not skilled to understand' by Dora Greenwell (1821 – 1882)

The words are more traditional and probably read better in 'Hymns and Psalms'

Old Testament reading set for today: 2 Samuel 6 v 1 – 5, 12b – 19

Message from a Circuit Friend

In 2 Samuel 6 we have the story of the recovery of the Ark by David that was taken by the Philistines. We learn of the Ark's significance and power and we also see how the Israelites, led by David, rejoice extravagantly in the Arks return to Jerusalem. How extravagant are we in our worship to God? What is our commitment to God? These are questions we need to ask ourselves from time to time. I am not talking about material things, or time that can be measured, but our heart and soul. Are we committed to be truly what Jesus intended us to be when he called us 'Children of God'? Are we willing to answer His call to spread the good news? Extravagance in worship is not just the act itself but also the willingness to share it beyond our church walls. If we are to be a church that is alive we need to be 'present' in our communities. So how do we worship extravagantly during the week? How do we show our love for God during the week? We may not dance down the streets in joy, but can we radiate our love for God in other ways, through a simple smile or an act of service? Are our lives as well as our worship always pleasing to God? If we doubt our ability, let us remember that we possess a far greater gift than the Ark. We possess the Holy Spirit, which dwells in us as a living entity in all that we do in the Lord's name. So, what will you offer to God this week?

Steve Jones (Local Preacher and member of Holt Methodist Church)

StF 477 MP 936 'Teach me to dance' by Graham Kendrick (born 1950) and Steve Thompson

Prayers of Intercession

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

It is 'Action for Children' Sunday – see their website for prayers and resources. You may like to say the words of this Action for Children covenant:

Every child has the right to live, to be safe and to be loved. Every young person has the right to be housed, to have enough money to live in dignity and to have enough support for the future. Every young person has the right to justice, to realise their potential and to be given the space to become independent. In an often cruel and imperfect world, we uphold the work of Action for Children with children and young people in danger, in need, at risk. We support the growth of this work and the pursuit of these rights for the young, the discounted and the vulnerable. We make this covenant with Action for Children for the sake of all God's children. Amen

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

StF 566 H&P 705 'Take my life and let it be' by Frances Ridley Havergal (1836 – 1879)

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

Wider News: The Farewell Service for the Chair of the East Anglia District, Rev Julian Pursehouse is this afternoon in Thetford Methodist Church at 3 o'clock. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please pray for the incoming Chair, Rev Helen Hollands.