

Sunday 15th September 2024: Twenty fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Theme for today is “who do you think that Jesus is?”

Our call to worship: We come to worship the Lord who surrounds us, does good to us, invites us to trust and reminds us to follow scripture to lead the life destined for us.

Hymn: StF 462 Come with me, come wander

Prayers of adoration and confession

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

Hymn: StF 272 From Heaven you came helpless babe

Readings: Psalm 19

Mark 8: 27-38

To think about

You may want to reflect on God’s love and security for us and how we provide this for others including the poor. For we know those who provide for others have their own needs met in turn

Message from a Circuit Friend

We pick up the story of Jesus after many miracles have been carried out. Jesus now has not only his chosen twelve but also many other people who are listening to his words, watching the miracles happen and seeing the authorities getting really annoyed at a man they considered unworthy of what he is doing. Many would have been with him when he fed the 5,000, also when he healed the lepers and the blind. Now he asks the question “Who am I?” There is a good mixture of responses: some say Elijah, some John the Baptist, some one of the other prophets come back to life. Let us remember that Jesus has not been crucified and risen from the dead, so how can he be a former prophet? He has made such an impact on the ordinary people of his time that they can only assume he is someone special, and for them the special ones were the prophets.

But then he asks the disciples “Who do YOU think I am?” Naturally the first to speak was Peter, the outspoken, speak before you think Peter. “You are the Christ”. At this time the Israelites are hoping and praying that someone will come who will rid them of the Romans who are running their country, taking all the riches and using the people for slaves in many cases. They see in Jesus someone with an air of authority, someone with a lot of charisma and yet someone who goes around doing good for the ordinary men and women.

Soon he is talking about his death and resurrection, being rebuked by Peter and in turn rebuking Peter. None of them, the disciples, the crowd, even the authorities know what Jesus means but they remember after the event. Here was God’s Son, no doubt about it after the resurrection and especially after the ascension, and then they realised that they had been tested by Jesus. Now they could truly say “You are the Christ” – can we also say this? As Christians following in the footsteps of Christ and his disciples, reading our Bibles daily and praying regularly, can we also echo the words “You are the Christ?”

Jacky Woor Trinity Dereham

Hymn: StF 710 - ‘Peace, perfect peace, is the gift from Christ our Lord’

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...

Hymn: StF 338 There is a redeemer

Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.