

**Sunday 22nd September 2024:** Twenty fifth 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 is the greatest?”**

**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 611 Brother, sister let me serve you.**

**Prayers of adoration and confession**

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

**Hymn: StF 18 Be still and know that I am God**

**Readings: Psalm 1**

**Mark 9: 30-37**

**To think about**

At a time when we have the contest for the leadership of the Conservative party in the UK and the run up to the presidential elections in the US we are witnessing fights for supremacy, who will be the best? Who will be the greatest?

**Message from a Circuit Friend**

September 2004 our daughters took part in the Junior Great North Run in Tyneside. The race was started by the Red Arrows flying up stream and within seconds, the road in front of us was filled with thousands of children. Towards the back of the mass crowd was a little girl, who I guess had cerebral palsy, she was walking with the aid of a trolley and accompanied by a man who I assume was her father. We all applauded as she passed us. Once the whole crowd of runners had gone on their way, we went down to the quayside to watch the end of the race and already the front runners had finished. The bulk of the runners had passed apart from a few stragglers and we waited for our children to come back and re-join us. We applauded as the celebrities from children’s TV programmes and soap operas had their pictures taken with medal holding youngsters, we watch the TV crews pack their cameras away in readiness for the big race tomorrow and all seemed to be done, when suddenly we spotted the little girl with her daddy emerge from under the tunnel beneath the swing bridge. She had the broadest smile imaginable as the crowd applauded, whistled and shouted words of encouragement as she headed for the finish line, her dad had tears streaming down his face.

I haven’t a clue who came first in that race that day, but I know exactly who came last and twenty years on, her face is imprinted in my mind, for me, she was undoubtedly the winner for me “and Jesus concluded “many who are now first will be last and many who are now last will be first”” The twenty first century world seems to emphasize the importance of status, wealth, charisma, presence, and fame. People spend their lives striving for these things, to be the best, to be the first, to be the one who people look up to. But we read in scripture of a servant Christ, a Christ who washed his disciples’ feet, a Christ who spent time with outcasts and a Christ who died upon the cross, for my sake. The way of Christ is one of humble service.

Rev Derek Grimshaw Superintendent Minister

**Hymn: StF 446 I will offer up my life**

**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 409 Let us build a house where love can dwell.**

**Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.**