



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit



Sunday 13th July 2025: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is “Go and do likewise”

Opening Prayer

May our eyes be ready to see, our ears ready to hear and our hearts open to God's great love as we draw near to worship.

Hymn: STF 28 Jesus calls us here to meet him <https://youtu.be/yulQuvsFD00?si=m9KUNvuzckgz5O3l>

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

John L. Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958) Words &
Music: 1989 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland
(Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)

Opening Prayers: **Let us pray together**

God, you bless us by calling us by name to meet with you. You bless us by inviting us to serve you, joining in your work in the world. You bless us through the lives of others and we are encouraged by being part of your people. Forgive us when we let others down, when we think of our own needs ahead of the needs of others, forgetting that you love all people, even those we find it hard to love. Please forgive us for these times and remove the guilt we carry needlessly. Strengthen us to follow Jesus. Bless us still, that we may be a blessing to all we meet. AMEN

Today's Readings: Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Hymn StF 249 <https://youtu.be/R2xclMRm-Ts?si=x8fMfndJrUx3iybq>

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends	Neighbours are rich folk and poor	These are the ones we should serve
silently washes their feet,	neighbours are black folk and white,	these are the ones we should love.
master who acts as a slave to them.	neighbours are nearby and far away.	All these are neighbours to us and you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends/ silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

North Ghanaian song adapted by Tom Colvin (1925 – 2000)

Reflection: Brought to us today by Rev Anne Richardson.

The story of the Good Samaritan is really well known. It all started with the question - Who is my neighbour?

The difficulty with this for us today is that we know about our neighbours all over the world. The news reports show us people who have been displaced, those who are grieving, those who've been injured. The charity news that comes through newsletters gives us stories of people struggling to make a living and how our giving can make a difference. In comparison to the time of Jesus, who really is our neighbour, now we live in a Global Village?! It is truly impossible to put all these people on our metaphorical donkey and take them to the inn to be cared for!! So we do what we can and give what we can and live with the underlying guilt that it is never enough. We may also fear a future judgement for our failures, knowing that we are not measuring up! And with all of this, we try to ward off compassion fatigue! We want to follow Jesus's instruction to 'go and do likewise' - but in reality, how is this to be achieved?

Perhaps the answer lies in our reading from Colossians. These Christians were known for the love they had for all the saints. The love came from the hope they had through Jesus. So Paul prayed for them to "be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ...to... lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him". We cannot be the 'Good Samaritan' to the whole of humanity - but we can ensure that our focus remains on all that Christ has done for us, so that our hearts are full of love and our compassion will never be fatigued. We can pray to God and ask for the discernment to know which neighbours we need to serve today. We can ask for the wisdom to know what we can do, what we can give, and where we can place our energies. It may be overwhelming to see the whole range of need - but if we focus on those whom God places before us, we can 'go and do likewise'.

A time of prayer

We pray for those who are victims - of war or prejudice - may God be with each one bringing strength and comfort. We pray for those who victimize others - for the Spirit to open their eyes and warm their hearts, so they will change. We pray for those who see the harm that is inflicted yet do nothing - may God's Spirit challenge them to make a difference.

We pray for those who work to help others - for the organizations that work throughout the world to bring healing and to work for justice.

And we pray for those we know suffering from the actions of others - may we be their Good Samaritan.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lastly, we pray for our own concerns, knowing that God wants to encourage us and help us.

Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father ...

Hymn: StF 415 The Church of Christ <https://youtu.be/iDMul1qbjm0?si=vHs6Sct-28YFPBO9>

1 The church of Christ in ev'ry age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring Church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Fred Pratt Green (1903 -2000)

A prayer of blessing: The blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love and serve, today and always. Amen.