

Worship sheet 21st September 2025 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit



Today is Peace Sunday and marks the United Nations International Day of Peace (21st September). Peace is something we all long for in our turbulent World. As we worship God whether on our own or in a group the following words from Isaiah 2 v4 are worth reflecting on:-

**They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

An opening prayer

Loving God as we begin this time of worship we come to you knowing that whilst we sing and pray there are many unable to do so, because of war, terror, hunger, sadness. We bring them to you and ask that you will be with us all as we share together in Jesus name. Amen

Hymn StF 470 Lord for the years your love has kept and guided...

Prayers: Almighty loving God, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we come to praise you in songs and words. Though often physically separated from others we share in the knowledge of your love for each one of us. In thankfulness we rejoice that we have the means of communicating with one another. As we move forward in faith we give thanks for your constant presence and the love you show to us. We thank you for the good gifts around us, thinking of the harvest almost safely gathered in. We thank you that despite our wrong doings you forgive us; you sent Jesus to share alongside us humans, in joy and in sorrow, and for Him to die a horrific death on the cross that we might have eternal life with you and our sins wiped away. Thank you loving God for all that we have and for the precious gift of Jesus. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Psalm 79

Hymn StF 519 Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do

Readings:-

! Timothy 2 v1-7 Instructions concerning prayer

Luke 16 v1-13 The parable of the dishonest manager

Hymn StF710 Peace Perfect Peace

Reflection

Timothy is encouraged to instruct the Church in Ephesus to pray for all people and especially rulers and those in authority so that all can live in peace. Ephesus had been through a turbulent time with rules that made it difficult for them to worship. They had to engage with rulers and authorities and there were many things they did not agree with. The writer whether Paul or a fellow Christian at the time, reminds Timothy that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humankind. This pastoral letter is about the issue of living faithfully for Christ in the world. That can be difficult when all around us we see disturbances, some policies we find hard to agree with, false information being circulated as the truth. People in fear of their lives from others out to cause major disruption. For me its seeing the rise of racism daily, which may have been hidden but is very much publicly shared causing distress to many.

Of course we may not agree with everything our leaders do or say but can we honestly want to cause physical harm to others? Are we so focused on ourselves that we don't look around us and see need?

Not long after Russia invaded Ukraine I prayed during a service for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia. There was silence and I wasn't sure of the reaction by the congregation but someone came up afterwards and said thank you for praying for the Russian people. Prayer is vital we need to pray about all things and certainly for peace.

I have heard on many occasions people who have been active in the church or attended for many years saying '*God will provide*'. Yes he will provide but he needs us to be active and trying to do our bit. Could you honestly look at a hungry child and say, '*God will provide*', or look down your nose at a family scuttling into a foodbank and say under your breath why aren't they working. Yes God provides in the donations of food and gifts that the foodbank receives. God needs us to pray, yes, but also we need to find ways that we can make even a small difference. Whether supporting a fundraising event, providing items needed, or writing a letter to a councillor or minister, standing up for justice, voicing aloud the Christian response, responding as Jesus would have done.

Prayer using hymn StF702

1. I will speak out for those who have no voices;
I will stand up for the rights of all the oppressed;
I will speak truth and justice;
I'll defend the poor and the needy;
I will lift up the weak in Jesus' name.

2. I will speak out for those who have no choices;
I will cry out for those who live without love;
I will show God's compassion
to the crushed and broken in spirit;
I will lift up the weak in Jesus' name.

StF691 What shall our greeting be

Prayers of intercession

- For a lasting Peace in so many countries.
- Our politicians and other leaders that they will seek fair ways and just ways to govern.
- All who are sick, sad and lonely, awaiting operations, frightened and struggling.
- For those unemployed, homeless, struggling financially.
- For separated families and children in care.
- For our Circuit Leadership team as it seeks to encourage and enable.
- For Mission and Evangelism by all.
- For Ministers getting to know their new congregations.
- Communities and churches, especially those struggling.
- Using our resources as best as we can.
- All who have suffered abuse.

StF 563 O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end

Closing Prayer

As we journey on Lord God, may we stand tall in sharing the good news, in praying and serving you, in Jesus name we ask this. Amen

May the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be always with you, now and for evermore. **Amen**