



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 12th October 2025: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is "Appreciation"

Prepared by Mrs Elsie Warby

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we give thanks for all your great works, you nourish the faithful and uphold your promises. Receive our worship today, as we offer the prayers of our hearts and the songs of our lips, for we are your grateful children, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn StF 88 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= vegvb1u5s4>

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
All ye who hear; brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord who doth nourish they life and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee
Then to thy need he like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth his light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Prayer

Great and wonderful God, we join with the great company of your people on earth and in heaven, to celebrate your love and to rejoice in your goodness. We bring you now our worship, our faith and our lives, offering them to you in grateful adoration. You have offered us hope and new life; cleansing and renewal; comfort and deep satisfaction, forgiveness and mercy. You are our God, and we praise you. Forgive us when we fail to see your glory in all around us. We are sorry when we have not reflected your light and love, and when we fail to be grateful for all you have given us. Cleanse and renew us and make us more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn StF 363 My Jesus, my Saviour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoindE4>

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In YOU*



Bible Reading: Luke 17: 11 – 19

Hymn StF 531 What a friend we have in Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2skxuowcaY>

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Reflection:

Today when we need medical help, we go to the doctor or hospital, even though we may have to wait a while for an appointment or treatment. In the time of Jesus, it was quite different, especially if you suffered from a skin disease known as leprosy. Afflicted people were considered unclean and banished from their communities. The only way to return to society was to be declared 'clean' by a priest. The ten lepers in the passage, had heard that Jesus could heal, and when he was travelling nearby, they came as close as they could, and called to him for help. Jesus did not ignore them but simply said: 'Go to the priest'. Desperate for relief, they immediately obeyed. To their amazement, they discovered their skin was healed and carried on eagerly to the priest.

I think we can identify with them in a way. If we have been healed, or a condition has improved, we would feel relief and joy and quickly resume our normal way of life. It's natural, and just what those men did. But, with a twist in the tale, one man came back to Jesus, loudly praising God, kneeling at his feet with profuse thanks. But not only that, he was the most unlikely person to do so, for he was a 'foreigner', a despised Samaritan!

It reminded me of the recent tension between Norwich City and Ipswich Town football fans, when one of the Norwich players left, and signed for Ipswich. It was unthinkable! Jesus, however, was delighted, for he saw that the Samaritan had faith – he saw beyond the cultural and religious barriers and realized just how much he needed to give thanks.

He had called to Jesus in trust and now responded with respect and thanksgiving. Jesus disregarded the barriers and gave the man much more than healing. 'Rise and go', he said, giving him a new life of wholeness in all respects. I wonder how much we suffer needlessly, by holding onto the barriers that divide us: from other people who may be different to us; holding back from coming to Jesus in faith; by neglecting to return to God time and time again, in thanksgiving for all he has given us.

Hymn StF 653 O Christ the healer, we have come <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O5vdLNE-Gw>

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamour to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Lord, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, on this Prisons Sunday, we remember prisoners, their families, prison officers and victims of crime, together with all those who are 'cast out' from society, and all who are scorned and rejected.

We pray for our own churches, ministers and all congregations as we seek to spread the gospel of love and compassion in our communities.

We pray for peace among the nations of the world, for barriers to be broken down.

We remember all who suffer the effects of conflict, fear and poverty, and who seek a place of security and acceptance. We pray for those who are unwell and ask that they may know your healing presence with them, through Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn StF 322 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXyHMMMy4YyY>

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear name – the rock on which I build
My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus, shepherd, brother, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

Closing blessing

We are called by your name, healed by your grace and enabled by your Spirit, so may we live for Jesus, to share his love with all we meet.

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the holy Spirit be with us always, now and for evermore **Amen.**