<u>Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2022</u>: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



**Hymn StF** 148 / **H&P** 575 (tune is the Sussex Carol: 'On Christmas night, all Christians sing')

Come, let us with our Lord arise / our Lord, who made both earth and skies: who died to save the world he made / and rose triumphant from the dead; he rose, the Prince of life and peace / and stamped the day forever his.

This is the day the Lord has made / that all may see his love displayed, may feel his resurrection's power / and rise again, to fall no more, in perfect righteousness renewed / and filled with all the life of God.

Then let us render him his own / with solemn prayer approach his throne, with meekness hear the gospel word / with thanks his dying love record, our joyful hearts and voices raise / and fill his courts with songs of praise.

Honour and praise to Jesus pay / throughout his consecrated day; be all in Jesus' praise employed / nor leave a single moment void; with utmost care the time improve / and only breathe his praise and love. Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

#### **Prayer**

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

Help us to remember that you are here with us.

May we pray to you in faith, sing your praise with gratitude,
And listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Epistle reading set for today**: 1 Corinthians  $12 \vee 1 - 11$ 

# To think about

Summarise at least 3 important things that this epistle reading is saying.

**Gospel reading set for today**: John 2 v 1 - 11

#### Information on Stone Jars used for water

Water vessels were sometimes made from gold, silver or ivory. But by far the most common and practical way of carrying and storing water was in large jars made from stone or pottery. The porous earthenware would absorb some of the liquid, which helped to stop it evaporating and kept it cool. The largest jars could hold over 100 litres of water. The law required Jews to cleanse themselves ritually, especially before a meal or religious ceremony, and so several water jars would have been needed at the wedding for the ritual washing of hands and utensils.

## Message from a Circuit friend

The wedding at Cana is about the transformation Christ brings. Transformation is a struggle to understand. Is it a single event or a life-long process? Which side of it am I presently on? How can I know? The gospel story helps here. Firstly, God has wonderfully made me for his pleasure and delight. Therefore, I am obliged to renounce the waters of bland existence and accept the wine of joyful life Christ came to share. Secondly, Christian action, worship, even prayer are not ends in themselves. Obedience to religious practices cannot of itself bring the radical change I seek. The only way this happens is to take the mother of Jesus' advice and "Do



whatever he tells you". To heed Christ's words is to know him. And knowing him trans-forms me. Thirdly, I must stand over against the world's cynicism- that after the good wine, the inferior follows. It is true that what the world supplies ultimately fails and decays. And human hearts become de-sensitised to all promise. So I try to remember the miracle at Cana: that with Christ, the better wine, the best wine, comes at the last. In my difficulties and hardships, I thank God for his love, that awakens my heart to hope again. The waters of my affliction will become for me the wine of his grace and mercy.

And the way I see things will be transformed.

**Andrew Fielding (Supernumary Minister in the Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit)** 

**Hymn StF** 603 (tune is Bunessan: 'Morning has broken')

Come to a wedding, come to a blessing / come on a day when happiness sings! Come rain or sun, come winter or summer / celebrate love and all that it brings.

Thanks for the love that holds us together – parent and child, and lover and friend: Thanks for to the God whose love is our centre / source of compassion, knowing no end.

Love is the gift, and love is the giver / love is the gold that makes the day shine, love forgets self to care for the other / love changes life from water to wine. Shirley Erena Murray (b 1931) CCL no. 5365402

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray for everyone currently affected by coronavirus:

those who are ill, those who are self-isolating, those who are bereaved, those who are trying to manage the situation in the NHS, those who are trying to manage their businesses with staff shortages, those in the civil service and in government.

We pray for all affected by adverse Winter weather, by wildfires, by cruel regimes, by food shortages caused by climate change and/or civil war.

We pray for our world, our country, our communities, our churches, our neighbours, our families and our friends.

## Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

### **Hymn** MP 541 **SOF** 439

One shall tell another / and they shall tell their friends, parents, spouse and children / shall come following on.

From house to house in families / shall more be gathered in; and lights will shine in every street / so warm and welcoming.

Come on in / and taste the new wine,

the wine of the kingdom, the wine of the kingdom of God:

here is healing and forgiveness,

the wine of the kingdom, the wine of the kingdom of God.

God longs to do much more than / our faith has yet allowed,

To thrill us and surprise us / with his sovereign power.

Where darkness has been darkest / the brightest light will shine;

His invitation comes to us – it's yours and it is mine.

Come on in...

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May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.