

Sunday 5th May 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Psalm set for today: Psalm 98

Our first hymn is based on this psalm:

StF 330 H&P 77 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come!' by Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

Opening Prayer

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

Epistle reading set for today: 1 John 5 v 1 – 6

StF 668 H&P 803 'Teach me my God and King' by George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

Gospel reading set for today: John 15 v 9 – 17

To think about

How many different things is Jesus saying to his disciples (or friends) in the gospel reading?

StF 242 MP 1 'A new commandment I give unto you' from the Bible in John chapters 13 – 15

Message from a Circuit Friend

This reading follows the well known saying from Jesus "I am the Vine". He is talking about being part of the people of God. In the verses we are looking at today, we take it one step further and Jesus is instructing his disciples about loving one another. If we are to live the right way, we must treat others as we want them to treat us. With love and compassion. As human beings we do not always see eye to eye with every one we meet. I probably have a couple of people in mind when I say that. They have both at some time in the past really annoyed me, doing something that I really did not appreciate. And, unfortunately, I have found it very hard to forgive them. One is now living far away and we have not corresponded since they moved. The other is still local and if I see them I will acknowledge them, but do not go out of my way to have a conversation with them. They have never acknowledged the hurt they caused me and I find it difficult to forget it. I know I should but...!

Jesus says that we should love one another as He has loved his disciples. That through him we are receiving God's love. That is a wonderful thing to know, that God loves us as he does Jesus, his son. Loving one another – easy to say, not so easy to do. But we are given the ability, the strength and the willingness if we only put our trust in God through Jesus on a daily basis.

Jacky Wool (Local Preacher and member of Trinity Methodist Church)

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...

StF 487 MP 796 'You shall go out with joy' by Stuart Dauermann (b 1944) & Steffi Geiser Rubin

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

District/Circuit News: The East Anglia Methodist Historical Society has its biannual talk at Swaffham on Saturday 18th May. Rev Jacqui is giving a photographic presentation on the history of Methodism in Swaffham with Sarah Rodgers talking about the recent history and refurbishment. The talk is at 3pm with a tea to follow (please book for the latter on 01760 720306).

At the District Synod last Saturday, Rev Julian Pursehouse gave an enthusiastic invitation to everyone to come to the District Service that there is going to be in our Circuit on Saturday 8th June at 2.30 pm in Walsingham Methodist Church. The event will be followed by a tea and those intending to attend are asked to book with the District Office on 01603 625765.