

Sunday March 13th 2022: Second Sunday in Lent

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



Hymn StF 103 H&P 220

God is Love: let heaven adore him / God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him / and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation / he who spread the heaven's above,
he who breathes through all creation / he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he, enfolding / all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking / under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching / deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness / sin afflicts each human soul,
God's eternal loving-kindness / holds and guides and keeps them whole.
Sin and death and hell shall never / o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever / o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874 – 1939)

Prayer

Thank God for his continued blessings including his presence and strength during difficult times. Continue your prayer of Lenten confession and a desire for a closer relationship with God. Use the following Psalm as part of your prayer.

Psalm set for today: Psalm 27

Epistle reading set for today: Philippians 3 v 17 – 4 v 1

To think about

To properly understand this passage from Philippians, read the foregoing part of chapter 3. Try and summarise what Paul is saying.

Hymn StF 341 H&P 251

All for Jesus – all for Jesus / this our song shall ever be:
for we have no hope, nor Saviour / if we have not hope in thee.
All for Jesus – thou wilt give us / strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence / while we trust thy love and power.
All for Jesus – thou hast loved us / all for Jesus – thou hast died;
all for Jesus – thou art with us / all for Jesus crucified.
All for Jesus – all for Jesus – this the Church's song must be;
till, at last, we all are gathered / one in love and one in thee.

W J Sparrow-Simpson (1859 – 1952)

Message from a Circuit friend

What is our goal in life? Surely it is to be as much like Christ as possible in our behaviour and practices, and in our work for Him, and come to know God in all we do. To show us an example, we remember the farmer who was ploughing a field and to keep the furrow straight, he gets his sight on a distant tree so that his aim is achieved. If he loses his sight of the tree, the furrow is crooked and off course and the farmer is disappointed with his work. If this is our life, Paul says we become enemies of Christ. Our language and behaviour is not only poor, it is vindictive and abusive and we start to live to the world's dictates instead of

to God, so we end up in Hell and the cross means nothing to us. But Paul and Christ want to take pride in us and what we can achieve, and Paul **is** proud of the Philippians. They have given money to the poor of Jerusalem; they are commended in their workers when Paul was with them; and they have lived exemplary lives witnessing to Christ. May Christ say that of us when we meet with Him in Heaven. Amen.

Della Collingwood (Local Preacher and member of Wells Methodist Church)

Gospel reading set for today: Luke 13 v 31 – 35



Prayers of Intercession

We pray for peace in our world, especially thinking of the situation in Ukraine; especially holding before God the relationship between Russia and the West. We pray for all who are suffering because of war, the threat of war, acts of violence and oppression.

We pray for all who are in danger of starvation or malnutrition, thinking especially of millions of adults and children in Afghanistan, we pray for the organisations seeking to help them.

We pray for our own country, our own community, our neighbours, our family and our friends...

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

Hymn StF 272 MP 162

From heaven you came, helpless babe / entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve / and give your life that we might live.

This is our God, the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him,

To bring our lives as a daily offering – of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears / my heavy load he chose to bear;

his heart with sorrow was torn / 'Yet not my will but yours', he said. *This is...*

Come see his hands and his feet / the scars that speak of sacrifice,

hands that flung stars into space / to cruel nails surrendered. *This is...*

So let us learn how to serve / and in our lives enthrone him,

each other's needs to prefer / for it is Christ we're serving. *This is...*

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) CCL no. 5365402

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

WIDER NEWS

People wanting to help refugees from **Ukraine** are being told that the best way to help is to donate money to the **Disasters Emergency Committee** (which includes Christian Aid). It is easy to donate through their website www.dec.org.uk. To donate to **Afghanistan** (where half the population are in danger of starvation and a million young children are currently at risk of dying), click on 'Afghanistan Appeal' and there is the opportunity to donate at the bottom of the page.

The Methodist Aid Charity '**All We Can**' has launched its own appeal for Ukraine and donations can be made at www.allwecan.org.uk or sent by post to: Ukraine Emergency Appeal, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR, UK.

An international Prayer Service for Ukraine led by leaders from the World Methodist Council, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Communion of Reformed Churches took place on Ash Wednesday and was recorded (wrc.ch/news/a-pall-of-ashes-covers-ukraine-christians-join-prayer-for-peace) : scroll to the end for the service recording). Pastors from Ukraine spoke live from across the country and the whole event was extremely moving.