



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 19th October 2025: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is "I know my place"

Prepared by Mrs Pippa Cook

Opening Words

Pray without ceasing, pray, your captain gives the word; his summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord.
(Charles Wesley)

Hymn STF 524 Listening God, you hear us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmfMSn8jWgk>

Listening God, you hear us when we cannot speak,
when despair and turmoil leave us faint and weak.
In love you call us back to you again
and your grace reminds us how you feel our pain.

Searching God, you find us when we go astray,
as self-centred living takes us from your way.
In love you seek us, show us what we've lost,
and your tears remind us what forgiveness cost.

Suffering God, you lift us from our deepest grief,
when emotion blinds us to our own belief.
In love you touch us with your nail-torn hand
and your wounds remind us why you understand.

Risen God, you show us love too strong for death,
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.
In love you teach us never to despair,
your new life reminds us, hope is always there. *Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)*

Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for the world in which we live, for its beauty, variety and provision. We ask your forgiveness for the times when we fail to care for the world and for your people in it. As we pray, may we know ourselves forgiven, and accept the challenges that you set before us day by day. Give us the strength and courage to be your disciples we pray. In Jesus' name, **Amen**

Reading Luke 18 vv 1 - 8

Hymn STF 519 Father I place into your hands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T8759Wdg3U>

Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,
For I know that I am one with you.



Reflection

Can you imagine yourself listening to Jesus as he tells another story designed to make you think?

It may be that you know someone in a position of authority, like the judge, who has no time for those of inferior status or without the means to pay for the attention they need. It may be that you know someone, or it may be you yourself, who feels that their voice is never heard, who cannot get the answer or the justice they need. Indeed, the BBC's Watchdog, and other similar programmes, will take up the cause of those who just want their rights. It may be that you know of those who try to get away with cheating others and ignoring their claims for justice. Each person listening to Jesus recognises someone they know or have heard of. And each person listening will consider what they would have done in the circumstances. Jesus says that eventually, just to stop the woman nagging, the judge gives in and hears her case.

God is not like that. He doesn't leave us to ask and ask without giving us an answer. He is not slow to deal fairly with us. But we can be slow to recognise this. We can be slow to believe that an answer will come and we can be slow to know that often we are part of the answer. He does require us, however, to be constant in our prayer and to pray believing.

Does Jesus still ask the question, 'Will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he comes?'

A time of prayer

We pray for those we love – the sick, the sad and the lonely.

We pray for those in pain – those waiting for an operation, and those recovering slowly.

We pray for those in need – the hungry, the homeless, the helpless.

We pray for those who are exploited, abused and neglected.

We pray for those who suffer as a result of war, of another's greed, or mismanagement of the earth's resources.

We pray for ourselves.

Help us, Lord, to pray in faith. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer Our Father ...

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 your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

From the Prayer Handbook, Day 19

Grant us, O Lord, purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no passion may hinder us from knowing your will and no weakness from doing it. In your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom, through Christ our Lord. Amen

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)