



## The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

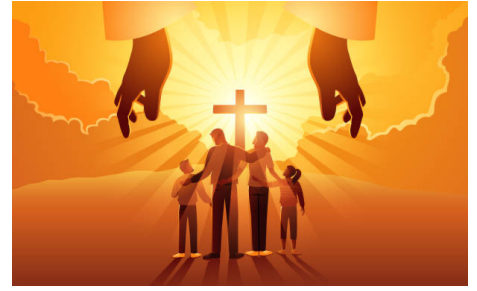
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025:** Sunday before Advent

**Theme for today is “God will provide”**

**Prepared by Jacky Woor**

### **Opening Words:**

Almighty God, we bring you praise  
for your Son, the Word of God.  
by whose power the world was made,  
by whose blood we are redeemed.  
Morning Star, the father's glory,  
We now worship and adore you.  
in our hearts your light has risen.  
Jesus, Lord, we worship you. *(Austin Martin; in Mission Praise)*



**Hymn 81 Now thank we all our God** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLjJBfIXRO>

Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

### **Prayers**

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for all the good gifts that you give to us each day, to sing your praises, and to acknowledge the debt that we owe you. Forgive us that all too often we do not even think about you as we go about our daily lives, only turning to you in times of trouble. Help us always to remember that you are our Creator, you provide for all our daily needs, and you sustain us during difficult times.

**Readings: Deuteronomy 8:1-9; John 6:1-15**

### **Reflection**

In our two readings today, we see God at work, firstly through Moses bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and leading them through the wilderness. Secondly, through Jesus seeing a very present need around him and proving for that need.

The Israelites had been in a very dark place, enslaved by the Egyptians but released after the plagues and Pharaoh being only too pleased to be rid of them at that moment. But they were an obstinate race, and only through God providing the food they needed and the water to quench their thirst did they become more his people. Now they are within a short distance of their destiny and are reminded of all that God has done for them – how easy it is to forget when things start to go right!

Jesus had been teaching and healing the sick, providing the people with a new way of living their lives, giving back wholeness to those in great need. It was getting late and the disciples thought it was about time to pack up, go home and have some food, only natural you might think. But Jesus realises that many of the people will have had nothing all day and may well be in dire straits if they are not catered for. But where would the disciples get that amount of food? Still, they do not realise that by putting their faith in Jesus, he will provide. Imagine their astonishment when the little that is provided becomes enough and more.

I wonder how many of us have been in a situation where we have felt desperate, wondering where we can get help, what does the future hold for us, and can we last that long? Perhaps, like me, it is only when we look back at these times, we see that God's hand has been busy sorting things out, even if we haven't actually asked for help through our prayers. In life there is no certainty except that God is with us, providing for our needs and ensuring that we are cared for both now, in the past and in the future. *Jacky Woor,*

**Hymn 518 Father, hear the Prayer we offer**      <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1-9wam-2Rk>

Father hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would strike the living fountains  
From the rocks along the way.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be there at our side.

**Prayers of Intercession**

We come to a time when we think about the world, all the very real needs there are, the lack of peace in many areas, the lack of homes both to live in and to find shelter in; we think of all who are suffering at this time with long term illness, short term discomfort, mental issues, lack of daily necessities or loneliness; we think of our own communities, our neighbours, our families; and finally we think about ourselves and our needs at this time.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 254 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God**      <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAqSD7XIkPc>

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto to you;  
Allelu-, alleluia:

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and ye shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu-, alleluia:

We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;  
Allelu-, alleluia:

**The Blessing** of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and for ever. Amen.