

Sunday July 24th 2022: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For use at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Hymn StF 24

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart,
come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God, one day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

Brian Doerksen (b 1965) CCL no. 667973

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you that summer is here again; for the joy of the warm sunshine and long days, the green trees and fields and the bright flowers everywhere. Thank you for this time when all of nature seems to praise your name.

From '365 Children's Prayers'

At a time when the sun has been too hot, the grass is brown instead of green, and the trees are beginning to turn too early, we pray for our planet, for people who have suffered in the heat, and for those having to deal with the water shortage.

Old Testament Reading set for today: Hosea 1 v 2 – 10

Gospel Reading set for today: Luke 11 v 1 – 13

To think about

Read the gospel passage again and find one thing that strikes you as interesting, one thing that you find difficult, and one thing that is exciting.

The Lord's Prayer (to the tune of 'kum ba yah')

Father God in heaven, Lord most high;
hear your children's prayer, Lord most high;
hallowed be your name, Lord most high;
O Lord, hear our prayer.

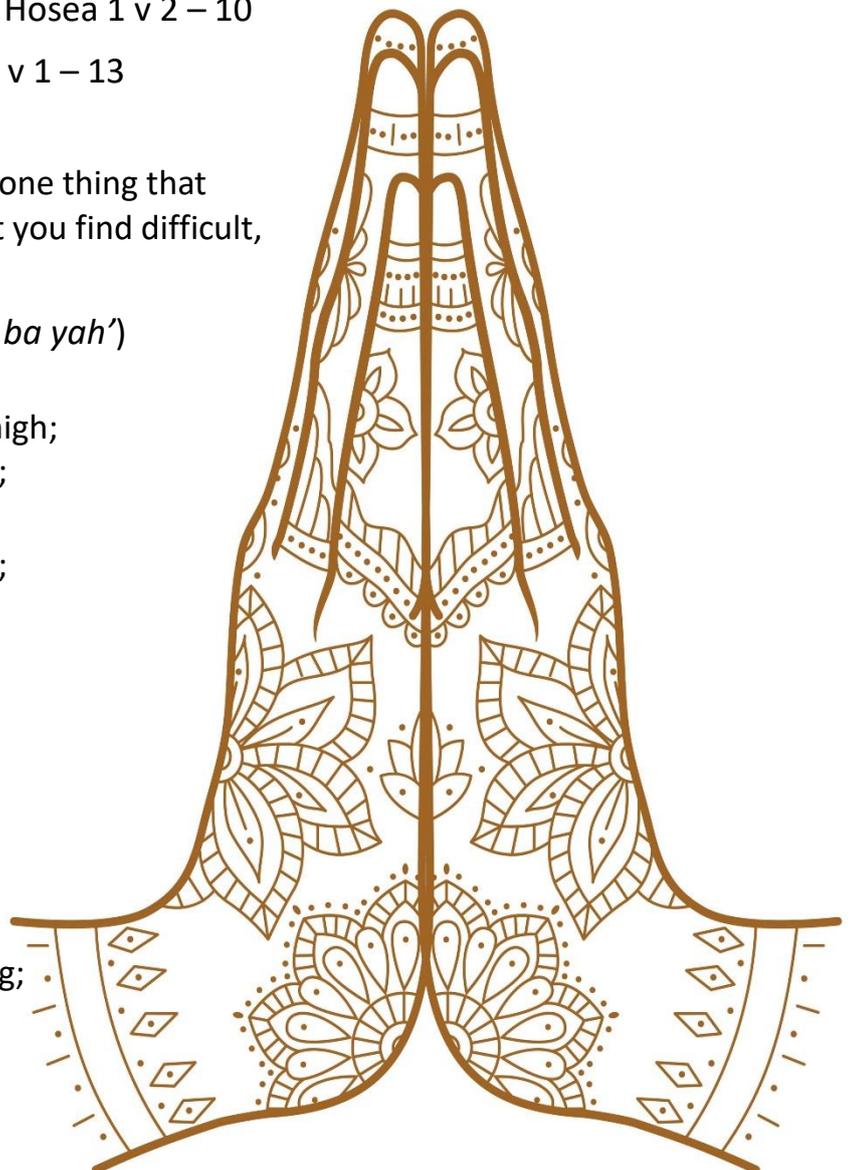
May your kingdom come, here on earth;
may your will be done, here on earth;
as it is in heaven, so on earth;
O Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us daily bread, day by day;
and forgive our sins, day by day;
as we too forgive, day by day;
O Lord, hear our prayer.

Lead us in your way, make us strong;
when temptations come, make us strong;
save us from all sin, keep us strong;
O Lord, hear our prayer.

All things come from you, all are yours;
kingdom, glory, power, all are yours;
take our lives and gifts, all are yours;
O Lord, hear our prayer.

James Edward Seddon (1915 – 1987) © Jubilate Hymns 8885 CCL no. 667973



Message from a Circuit friend

On 7th June 2022, Judy & I had been married 25 years. We celebrated with family and friends a few days later. What a joy those years have been. We remarked how we had been undergirded throughout by God's love and grace, blessing upon blessing. Now by coincidence, today's Old Testament reading is about a marriage, between the prophet Hosea and Gomer. On another level, the whole book, Hosea, is about marriage between God and His people Israel in the Northern Kingdom. On yet another level, the relationship between God and the individual believer comes into play. In Hosea 1, God instructs Hosea to marry a woman whom, he is told, will be adulterous and unfaithful. Why? The people of Israel are sinning against God through unfaithfulness. The names of Hosea's children carry a message for God's people. A little later in the book, Gomer leaves Hosea to pursue her lusts. But Hosea finds her, redeems her, and brings her home again. Hosea and Gomer are fully reconciled. Next, God outlines His case against Israel, warning that her waywardness will bring about Israel's destruction. God's anger is aroused, punishment will be the order of the day. But in the end, in later chapters of Hosea, God shows mercy and offers hope. His love for His people is infinite. Blessing follows turning back to God. In the book of Hosea, God's constant and persistent love are on display. This is God's timeless message for today. Let's make sure that our communities hear it.

Douglas Harrison (Local Preacher and member of Garvestone Methodist Church)

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those who have enjoyed successful long marriages, those whose relationships are breaking up, those who are just getting married or entering into civil partnerships, those who find relationships difficult or elusive. We pray for those who have lost partners and those whose anniversaries of bereavement are over the Summer.

We pray for Rev Cliff and Christine as they enter their last week of ministry with us, for Rev Anne as she enjoys her last week of sabbatical, for Deacon Jen as she prepares for her sabbatical and for her 2 months working on the island of Iona, and for Rev Jonny and Seb as they move and settle into the northern part of our circuit.

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

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

Hymn StF 51 H&P 66

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father / there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not / as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest / sun moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness / to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth / thine own presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow / blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O Chisholm (1866 – 1960)

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

Circuit News: The farewell service for **Rev Cliff Shanganya** is on Sunday July 31st at 3 pm at Holt Methodist Church – everyone is welcome to attend and to say 'thank you' and 'goodbye' to Cliff and Christine. Please pray for Cliff and Christine as they prepare to move and as they look forward to their future ministry in Slough and area.