



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 5th October 2025: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is “increase our faith”

Prepared by Mrs Dee Moden

Opening Words from Psalm 89

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.



Hymn 17 With gladness we worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=705eMUhoGs8>

With gladness we worship,
rejoice as we sing,
Free hearts and free voices,
how blessed to bring!
The old thankful story
shall seek Thine abode,
Thou King of all glory,
most bountiful God!

Renewed by Thy Spirit,
redeemed by Thy Son,
Thy children would bless Thee
for all Thou hast done:
O Father, returning
to love and to light,
Our spirits are yearning
to praise Thee aright.

Thy right would we give Thee,
true homage Thy due,
And honour eternal,
the universe through:
With all Thy creation,
earth, heaven and sea,
In one acclamation
we glorify Thee.

We join with the angels,
and so there is given,
From earth, Alleluia,
in answer to Heaven.
Amen! Be Thou glorious
below and above,
Redeeming, victorious,
and infinite Love!

Opening Prayers

Heavenly Father, we come to worship you, we come as one whether in our churches or homes, to be in your presence leaving our busy lives aside. We come to give thanks for all the blessings bestowed on us in this past week, in the people we have met, the things we have shared, and the opportunities we have had to share your love in different ways. We worship you with praise and adoration and thanksgiving, asking too for your compassion and mercy as we stumble along the way. Help us be your faithful trusting people. We come into your presence with our hearts and minds open to your will and your word.

Amen

Bible Readings: Luke 17: 5-10

Reflection:

This reading provides a setting for our other readings. The disciples were asking for their faith to be increased, to be tried and tested to be stretched. This applies to us today too; we need to be open to new things. Again, the disciples are told to focus on setting their sights on what is asked of them. Jesus commended the disciples desire for even more faith because faith is necessary to be able to carry out God's work. Jesus compares faith to a mustard seed, the tiniest seed of all yet, when fully grown, spreads its branches far and wide. Jesus also gives an example by way of servants who have completed their duty, not to expect by right to be given priority status! God works through us with us and in us. Their job was, as ours today, is being faithful, ready to serve at all times, and putting our trust in God for whatever the future would hold. From the Old Testament to the New God's steadfast love is paramount.

Hymn 661 Give me the faith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3aHhmjngk8>

Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain;
give me the childlike praying love,
which longs to build thy house again;
thy love, let it my heart o'er-power,
and all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,
and longer live for this along,
to spend and to be spent for them
who have not yet my Savior known;
fully on these my mission prove,
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
into thy blessed hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word,
and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend
in publishing the sinner's Friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
with boundless charity divine,
so shall I all my strength exert,
and love them with a zeal like thine,
and lead them to thy open side,
the sheep for whom the Shepherd died.

Reading 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Reflection:

Timothy had a strong connection with Paul, and Paul longed to see him, and this letter almost certainly was awaiting the results of his trial. These were urgent requests as we read further on, but here he is wanting to see Timothy urgently not just for his material needs. He wanted to remind him of the power through faith and his commitment to God through Jesus Christ, trusting in God's judgement. It is a letter of encouragement to carry on his work of ministry to others.

Our other lectionary reading from Habakkuk 1: 1-4 and 2: 1-4 Habakkuk has a dialect with God asking questions and then waiting for God's answer. Sometimes we ask questions when we are faced with troubles or uncertainty, and if it isn't answered quickly or in the way we want, we think that our prayers haven't be answered. We have then, like others in our readings, to be reminded of our faith, trusting in God his provision, grace and judgement.

Are we ready to serve at all times trusting in God?

Hymn 638 Through all the changing scenes of life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBkorDtz1nU>

Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.

Of his deliverance I will boast,
Till all that are distressed
From my example comfort take,
And charm their griefs to rest.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called,
He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just;
Deliverance He affords to all
Who on His succour trust.

Oh, make but trial of His love,
Experience will decide
How blest they are, and only they,
Who in His truth confide.

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you His service your delight,
Your wants shall be His care.

Prayers for others: Sometimes our minds are so often full of words, and our hearts clogged up with thoughts and everyday things as well, which leaves little room for meeting God in simplicity and stillness. So we pray through our own thoughts, feelings and experiences.

For all the terrible things we see on a daily basis on our screens.....

For those for whose lives have been changed in many different situations....

For those who are sick bereaved and struggling.....

For our Churches, Community and our Circuit.....

For guidance though the coming week.....

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 455 All my hope on God is founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DohxO6ytsaU>

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Blessing

My God, I am yours,
And I seek to respond to your call today,
To go to those who need to hear your good news,
Who need to receive your peace.
Show me, show all of us, how to follow in your way, I pray,

Amen