



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 14th June 2026

Theme "Seeking the lost"

Prepared by Mrs Elsie Warby Local Preacher



Opening words:

Let all the earth acclaim the Lord! Worship the Lord in gladness; enter his presence with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God; he made us and we are his, his own people, the flock which he shepherds. Amen.

Hymn 1 All people that on Earth do dwell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42_kOGDTpKg

All people that on Earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, his praise forthtell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From earth and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Prayers:

Gracious God, we ask that you would meet us today and touch our hearts with your generosity, your compassion and your wisdom. We praise you for your power which holds us and holds everything; for your grace which touches and renews us; for your love that gives us life and makes us whole. We praise you for the innumerable ways you have acted across history, taking the most unlikely of people and using them in even unlikelier situations to make known your love and fulfil your purpose. Teach us in our turn, to be alert to your call and ready to respond wherever you might lead, to the glory of your name.

Lord, forgive us when we have not listened to your voice, and not responded to your call of love. We are sorry when our actions and words have not spoken of you, and our lives have not reflected your light and love. By your sovereign grace, draw us close to yourself, renewing our minds and refreshing our souls, through Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 9: 35 – 10:

Reflection:

As Jesus was going about his ministry, he noticed the problems of the people whom he lived and worked among. Their country was occupied by the Romans who ruled harshly, and their own Jewish authorities had a vast array of rules and restrictions which made life difficult. The people hoped and longed for freedom, but who could they turn to? Jesus recognized that they were 'like sheep without a shepherd'. In those days, the shepherds led their flocks, from the front, showing them the way to good living. The Old Testament is full of references to the leaders not being 'good shepherds' for God's people. Now he has sent the Good Shepherd, in Jesus, his Son.

The gospel passage tells us how Jesus went about all the cities and villages; teaching, preaching and healing. His work was effective, but it is clear that he could not meet all of the need, single-handedly. His solution was to call together his helpers, the twelve disciples, listed here. They were a mixed bunch of local working men. Although different, each one was important in his own way, chosen for the task and given the job. There were no formal interviews, no qualifications or references needed, just the willingness to follow Jesus. Their job description was to obey, and follow his instructions; to do just what he was doing, teaching, preaching and healing. First of all, for now, they were to go to their fellow Israelites, not to tackle the non-believers of other races, but to find the 'lost sheep' among their own, who had wandered from God. Jesus recruited labourers for God's important harvest, but there was no talk of a minimum wage, or any other benefits of the job. They were called to give back, to freely give to others the good

news of the kingdom, to give hope to the people again, just as they had received themselves. All of us, as churches and individuals, are still called today, to be his labourers, to give as we have received, to freely share and encourage our neighbours and friends to come to Jesus, for hope, peace and healing.

Hymn 424: God forgave my sin in Jesus' name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ3eklr3fc0>

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his love as he told me to.

He said:

*'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.*

All power is given in Jesus' name
in earth and heaven in Jesus name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his power as he told me to.

He said:

*'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.*

Intercessions

Loving God, we pray for the renewal of your Church throughout the world, and for our own church and circuit, for our ministers, and all congregations, that we might be one, in your name.

We pray for the nations of your world, where there is war, oppression, poverty and unrest.

May those in authority come to know your way of love and peace.

We pray for our own communities, for friends and family, for all who struggle to make sense of their lives, for those who face sickness or loss, loneliness and depression, or have difficult decisions to make. May they know your healing presence and find peace.

May we always have faith in you, for you are the only one who brings life in all its fullness, in the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Hymn 658: A charge to keep I have

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE49MEmAUH8>

A charge to keep I have,
a God to glorify,
a never-dying soul to save,
and fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil,

Help me to watch and pray,
and on yourself rely,

O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care
as in Thy sight to live,
and O your servant, Lord, prepare
a strict account to give!

so shall I not my trust betray,
nor love within me die.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen