



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 26th July 2026:

Today's theme is "Jesus the story teller"

Prepared by Dee Moden Local Preacher's secretary



Opening Words

Psalm 105 v 1-4

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

Hymn 87

Praise to the living God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4RU0ehkndU>

Praise to the living God!

All praised be to his Name,

Who was, and is, and is to be,
for e'er the same!

The One Eternal God

ere ought that now appears:

The First, the Last, beyond all thought

His timeless years!

Formless, all lovely forms

Declare his loveliness;

Holy, no holiness of earth

Can his express.

Lo, he is Lord of all!

Creation speaks his praise,

And everywhere, above, below,

His will obeys.

His Spirit flowing free,

High surging where it will:

In prophet's word he spoke of old,
Is speaking still.

Established is his law,

And changeless it shall stand,

Deep writ upon the human heart,

On sea, on land.

Eternal life has he

Implanted in the soul;

His love shall be our strength and stay

While ages roll.

Praise to the living God!

All praise be to his name,

Who was, and is, and is to be,

Always the same.

Opening Prayers

PRAYER: Loving Lord, we come today to be in your presence, to feel your power surging through us, to know your peace, love, and grace. You Lord are our strength and sustainer through all eventualities, and we bow our heads in worship and adoration. Amen

We come knowing that we fall far short of what is expected of us in thought, word and deed. Lord forgive us and help us to be better witnesses for you. In your loving power and grace you forgive so much, help us to be as forgiving towards others too. Amen

We ask today Lord, that you will speak to us through our hymns and readings, stir us up as we read your word and breathe new life into our hearts and minds as we continue to worship you. We ask all these things in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Readings:

Matthew 13: 31-33 Matthew 13: 44-52 Romans 8: 26-39

Hymn 254

Seek ye first the king of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAqSD7XlkPc>

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;

Seek, and you shall find.

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,

But by every word

That proceeds out from the mouth of God.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Reflection:

I really love the parables of Jesus, and this reading comes after the parable of the Sower, continuing the theme of how God's word is distributed. Jesus has the ability to capture people's attention by telling a story! But not just a story, he links it to the things that the people are familiar with to give greater understanding. These first verses are again about seeds, a mustard seed, how it spreads and grows, and then the baking of bread how the yeast when mixed and left to prove spreads and grows into something delicious. Of course, this is about God's love for us and how he encompasses us, but it also about our faith, and how we spread the Word of God scattering far and wide, as God's love in us, and those who have come to love him, grows. Then the realisation comes how we are all under the shelter of his loving arms.

The second parable is about finding a hidden treasure, it is there for everyone to find no one is excluded, and, like finding a precious pearl, seeking for it until it is found, then what joy we receive. God's net spreads far and wide, capturing many fish, but not all will come to the table. God's love is for all who will receive it. This is emphasised in Paul's letter to the Romans, a letter of great encouragement and insight, telling of God's love through Jesus and how much he cares for us.

Through all worldly situations and whatever befalls us nothing can separate us from God's love and these wonderful verses (v38-39) So may we be the seeds God plants bearing much fruit, and, like the yeast rising, God providing food and nourishment for all, showing the way to His kingdom.

Hymn 73: Fill thou my life, O lord my God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CJT-6nsl8c>

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor e'en the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:

Praise in the common thing of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise
Let all my being speak
Of thee and of thy love, O Lord,
Poor though I be and weak

So shalt thou, gracious Lord from me
Receive the glory due;
And so shall I begin on earth
The song for ever new.

So shall no part of day or night
from sacredness be free,
but all my life, in every step,
be fellowship with thee.

Prayers of intercession:

Loving Lord,

We come to pray for our troubled world, so many different wars so much hatred and destruction. People only thinking of themselves, their status and pride no thought for the ordinary everyday people trying to live their lives, there seems to be no compromise, understanding or tolerance. We pray for peace and peaceful solutions.

Lord in Your mercy**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for those areas of the world which are under the news radar... where there is drought and famine and sickness that go unnoticed by the majority of the world. We pray for those living in poverty, in our own nation and elsewhere; those who have to fight every day to find where the next meal will come from; those who are desperate to keep their children healthy amid great difficulty. We give thanks for our food banks and clothing banks; and other organisations getting help to those who are in great need.

Lord in Your mercy**Hear our prayer**

Loving Lord, we bring to you in prayer our family, friends, neighbours and community and all those who we know who need our prayers today. In a moment of quiet we offer their names and situations to you.....

May they find your peace.

Lord in Your mercy**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we commit the week ahead to you. Shine your light into every situation so that we can see where you are at work and follow your lead. Send us out as people of hope to bring your love into every place you lead us. We bring these and all our prayers together as we say **The Lord's Prayer**

Hymn 664 Lord you call us to your service

Lord, you call us to your service,
Each in our own way.
Some to caring, loving, healing;
Some to preach, or pray;
Some to work with quiet learning,
Truth discerning,
Day by day.

Life for us is always changing
In the work we share.
Christian love adds new dimensions
To the way we care.
For we know that you could lead us,
As you need us,
Anywhere.

Closing Prayer

May the joy of Christ shine in our eyes, may the word of Christ be on our lips, and may the love of Christ speak through our actions, so all may see and know of His wonderful love and care. **Amen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtsubiBA78s>

Seeing life from your perspective
Makes your challenge plain,
As your heart is grieving overt
Those who live in pain.
Teach us how, by our compassion
You may fashion hope again

Lord, we set our human limits
On the work we do.
Send us your directing Spirit,
Pour your power through.,
That we may be free in living
And in giving
all for you.