

Sunday April 26th For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or at another time

Prayer

Christ our friend,
you ask for love in spite of our betrayal.
Give us courage to embrace forgiveness,
know you again, and trust ourselves in you;
we pray in your name. Amen.

Methodist Worship Book collect

Hymn StF 311

Low in the grave he lay / Jesus my Saviour,
waiting the coming day / Jesus my Lord:
*Up from the grave he arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives for ever with his saints to reign:
He arose! He arose!
Alleluia! Christ arose!*

Robert Lowry (1826 – 1899)

Psalm set for today: 116 v 1 – 4, 12 – 19

Song SOF 226

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my king, in what you hear,
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Laurie Klein © 1978 Maranatha Music/Adm by CopyCare CCL nos. 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 & others

Lectionary Gospel Reading : Luke 24 v 13 – 35

For thought

Look at the Bible passage again and consider the groups of people to whom the resurrection was revealed on Easter Day. Think about why these particular women and men received this privilege. How did the experience of the two disciples (friends or a couple?) on the Emmaus Road benefit the whole group? How does it benefit us?

Hymn StF 307 (possible tune: 'All for Jesus' StF 341)

On the day of resurrection / to Emmaus we return;
While confused, amazed, and frightened / Jesus comes to us, unknown.
Then the stranger asks a question / 'What is this which troubles you?'
Meets us in our pain and suffering; Jesus walks with us, unknown.
Day of sorrow is forgotten / when the guest becomes the host.
Taking bread and blessing, breaking / Jesus is himself made known.
Opened eyes, renewed convictions / journey back to scenes of pain;
Telling all that Christ is risen / Jesus is through us made known.

Michael Peterson CCL nos. 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013 & others

For Prayer

We pray for all who need to know that Jesus walks with them.

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church and our own Central Norfolk Circuit, our community, our local church and fellowship, our family and friends, ourselves.

We pray for anyone, and everyone, coping with the coronavirus emergency – in any way.

We say the Lord's Prayer...

Offer to God your offertory for the week: and, if cash, put it aside in a special place.

Message from a Circuit Friend (different person each week)

Judy and I live in Ashill. On Thursday 19th March we had a post-box fitted to the side of our bungalow. Next day, we had our first item of post – a letter from “The Children of Ashill Primary School”. Our rear-garden backs onto the school playing field. The envelope said, “Have Courage and Be Kind.” Inside was a prayer of thanksgiving, written and illustrated by the children. There was a pupil's message. It said, “You may be on your own, you're a lonely man/woman/lady. I'm sure you'll be fine and if you're not, I'm sad, show that you're strong and resilient.” There was also another sheet quoting 1 Corinthians 16:13, “be men of courage”, and Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and of good courage.” Judy and I were deeply touched.

Judy suggested we email the school, which I did. I wrote, “As the staff and pupils go their separate ways for a time, from today, it is our prayer that God's love will go with them. As your sending of the envelope and its contents was an act of love, so we assure you of our love and prayers for the school.” The school's acting Head took the trouble to email us back, writing, “I have just closed the school on what has been a very emotional day and I wanted to let you know that we finished our day with your kind words which I shared with the children in our final Collective Worship.”

I found this email encounter quite emotional. It reminded me, God's love triumphed on the first Easter Day, and by sharing that love with each other we share in His triumph, today and tomorrow.

Douglas Harrison (Circuit Local Preacher and member at Garvestone)

Final Thoughts

All we have in common is a road; All we have in common is a journey:

We are simply fellow travellers who are passing in the night,

Let us stay with one another on the road, for a time.

Dare we trust a stranger with our dreams? Dare we trust a stranger with our story?

If we cannot hide our tears, let us share our hopes and fears

As we stay with one another, with our dreams. (Iona Abbey Worship Book)

Hymn StF 311

The day of resurrection, earth, tell it out abroad!

The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God!

From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.

St John of Damascus 675 – 750 trans by John Mason Neale 1811 – 66

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

On the occasion of a Chapel Anniversary (after the 1st hymn)

Spend a moment or two reflecting on your church's history, and your own part in it.

Collect for a Church Anniversary

Almighty God,
To whose glory we celebrate the anniversary of this church:
We thank you for the fellowship
of those who have worshipped here,
and we pray that all who seek you here may find you,
and being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple,
a dwelling place for your life-giving presence in the world.
We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: We come to worship

(tune: Bunessan usually sung to 'Morning has broken')

We come to worship
and to remember
so many years of
our church's past.
Lord, we adore you
and we give thanks for
people and memories –
treasures that last.

We come to offer
current church living,
all that makes up our
church life today.
Lord, we adore you
and we give thanks for
giving your spirit,
guiding our way.

We come to pray for
our church's future.
Mission and outreach –
serving our God.
Lord, we adore you
and we give thanks for
growing your kingdom,
spreading your word.

We come to give you
past, present, future.
All that we've done and
how we've been led.
Lord, we adore you
and we give thanks for
all that is past and
what lies ahead.