

Sunday July 12th For use at 10.30 am or at another time

Today's Worship is in two sections connected by a common theme of sowing and planting and enjoying God's creation. The first section celebrates gardens (as we rejoice in each other's gardens through our virtual Circuit 'Open' event – see www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk) and the second section reflects on the Parable of the Sower – today's lectionary gospel reading.

Hymn StF 100 H&P 330



*All things bright and beautiful / all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful / the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens / each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours / he made their tiny wings:

The cold wind in the winter / the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden / he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them / and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty / who has made all things well:

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 – 1895)

Thanksgiving for Gardens

For **G**ardening, gardeners and gardens: **we thank you God.**

For **A**ppletrees, antirrhinums and asters: **we thank you God.**

For **R**oses, radishes and rhubarb: **we thank you God.**

For **D**elphiniums, dead-heading and digging up potatoes: **we thank you God.**

For **E**uphorbia, euonymous, and everlasting sweet peas: **we thank you God.**

For **N**arcissi, nemesia and nasturtiums: **we thank you God.**

For **S**ensing your presence in every garden: **we thank you God. Amen.**



Prayer of Confession

We say sorry to God for the times that we misuse, or abuse, his creation.

To think about

This next Hymn is about the first garden (Genesis 2 v 8) and the first morning of creation. It goes on to think about the Lord God walking in the garden and then how that first morning is re-created every new day that is given to us. Think about the words and experience them as if you are meeting them for the first time – fresh from the Word!

Hymn StF 136 H&P 635

Morning has broken / like the first morning / blackbird has spoken / like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! / Praise for the morning! / Praise for them, springing / fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall / sunlit from heaven / like the first dewfall / on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness / of the wet garden / sprung in completeness / where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! / Mine is the morning / born of the one light / Eden saw play!

Praise with elation / praise every morning / God's re-creation / of the new day!

Eleanor Farjeon (1881 – 1965) CCL nos. 168415, 495683 102550.& others



Reading set for today: Matthew 13 v 1 – 9, 18 – 23

Message from a Circuit Friend

This reading was obviously intended for me to share thoughts on: Initially I was asked to offer a reflection for July 19th: It's ironic that it was changed for July 12th as I was only recently thinking about this reading. I often reflect whilst walking our dog, which may then prompt me to share something on our Circuit 'Thought for the day'. On this particular walk I mused that the dog was trying to grab a stick off the ground; the only problem being that it was very firmly rooted in the soil; being a large root from an even bigger tree! It reminded me of this parable where seeds fell on different types of ground. Jesus goes on to explain the parable, (verses 18-23): my 'dog walk' focused my thoughts on verse 20-21: *'What was sown on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.'*

At the moment we are all experiencing a very different lifestyle to what we expected: we may be self-shielding due to Covid; we may be lonely because we can't meet people as we would wish. We may be struggling to deal with this pandemic, as well as the various issues throughout the world that we see or hear about. And we may be asking 'Why' – to ourselves or to God. At the moment, what sort of seed are we? One that has a shallow root; one that is choked by the thorns – 'the worries of the world' or one that, like our dog's root is so firmly planted that nothing will shake it.

Judith Semmons (Local Preacher, member of Toftwood MC, and our Circuit Local Preachers' Secretary)

For Prayer

We pray for ourselves, and for others in our churches, as we continue on our journeys in life, as well as journeys of growth towards maturity in both personality and faith.

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

Today is Action for Children Sunday and there is a separate prayer for those who would like to use it. We give thanks for the 387,000 children and their families who were helped last year and pray for the organisation as it continues to offer help and support in this time of coronavirus crisis.



For more information, or to make a donation, go to www.actionforchildren.org.uk.

We pray with two young people who are part of the Methodist Church family in Great Ellingham:

From **Rose**: Dear Jesus, I wish you can help children worrying about the Coronavirus. Look after children who have had the virus and those who have lost loved ones. Thank you. Amen

From **Harry**: dear God, Please look after children that are worried and scared. Help those who look after them and keep them safe. Amen.

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

Hymn StF 82

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder / consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder / thy power throughout the universe displayed:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee / how great thou art, how great thou art! X 2

When through the woods and forest glades I wander / and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur / and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing / sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing / he bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation / and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart;
then shall I bow in humble adoration / and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art:

Stuart K Hine (1899 – 1989) CCL numbers as overleaf

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

A Prayer for 'Action for Children' Sunday

In celebration of over 150 years of work and witness, we commit ourselves afresh:

Where children cry in need:

We will hear their cry.

Where children are denied the gifts of childhood:

We will provide for them to delight in good things.

Where there is exclusion or deprivation:

We will challenge injustice.

Where poverty is rife:

We will share what we have.

Where others also care:

We will work with them.

Wherever we see a need:

We will pray for means to meet it.

Let us pray:

Loving God,

you have called us to be your people and to share in the ministry of your Son.

Grant us, we pray, ears that are open to the cries of those in need,

hearts that are eager to respond, voices that are ready to speak out for the oppressed

and hands that are active in sharing your bounty, in the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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