



Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Worship sheet 16th November 2025

Compiled by Aileen Fox

Opening words: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever! *Psalm 118 v1*

StF 86

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| 1. Praise the Lord! You heavens adore him;
praise him, angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all you stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he hath spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws that never shall be broken
for their guidance he hath made. | 2. Praise the Lord! for he is glorious!
Never shall his promise fail;
God hath made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation!
hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation,
laud and magnify his name. |
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Foundling Hospital Hymns c.1796 from Psalm 148

Prayers:

Adoration (from Roots on the Web)

God of spring and summer, autumn and winter: we adore you. God of past and present and times to come: we adore you. God of the darkest night and the brightest day: we adore you. God of love and peace and hope and joy: we adore you. God of all times and all places: we adore you now. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and assurance of forgiveness (from Roots on the Web)

The Almighty God, who never fails us, hears our prayers, our confession and our sorrow and gives us now the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Prayers of praise and thanks

Loving God as we come together in our Churches and homes, we praise you in our songs, prayers and thoughts. Thank you for the most precious gift of Jesus and for all the good gifts you give to us. We pray that we will make use of all these gifts and share the Good News of Jesus with others. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Old Testament reading Isaiah chapter 12

StF 76 1. Give me Joy in my heart, keep me praising, give me joy in my heart, I pray; give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, keep me praising till the break of day:

refrain Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to the King!

2. Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving, give me peace in my heart, I pray;
Give me peace in my heart keep me loving, keep me loving till the break of day:

Sing hosanna

3. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving, give me love in my heart I pray; give me love in my heart, keep me serving, keep me serving till the break of day. **Sing Hosanna**

Bible readings 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 v6-13; Luke chapter 21 v5-19

Prayer for our offering: Loving God we thank you for all the good things you give to us, please bless the gifts we bring to you through many different ways and bless each one of us and help us to use our own talents and gifts in your name. **Amen**

StF 519 1. Father, I place into Your hands The things I cannot do, Father, I place into Your hands, the times that I've been through. Father, I place into your hands, the way that I should go, For I know I always can trust You.

2. Father, I place into your hands my friends and family. Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me. Father, I place into your hands, the person I would be, For I know I always can trust you.

3. Father, we love to seek your face, we love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice. Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest, For we know we always can trust you.

4. Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do. Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too. Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you, For I know that I am one with you. *Jenny Hewer (b.1945)*

Reflection on Thessalonians

I am particularly taken with Paul's letter and the instruction to work honestly and not be idle. He tells the people that they should not be ashamed to work and should in other words work to feed and clothe themselves. I want to focus on not being idle. I think many of us are busy and would say that we are certainly not idle. But what sort of busyness? Is it fruitful or just being seen as busy for the outward appearance? Sadly, many people today are facing unemployment and struggling to get by, to feed and clothe loved ones. I have no problem in help being offered to them and I don't think this is what Paul was on about. I suspect he had seen others refusing to do some work as it felt demeaning or thought they were too important to work and others should look after them. It's about getting our priorities right. Paul never expected the groups he visited and spoke with, to look after him. He worked and ensured he wasn't a burden. The real point I take from this? Is all my busyness necessary and is it helping me in my Christian life to reach out to others?

Secondly are our Churches too busy? I don't mean they should stop doing all their activities. What I am suggesting is, are these activities a means of showing God's love to others and helping them find Jesus? Are there moments within our church life to take stock of what the church is actually doing and ask whether it is reaching out and spreading the love of Jesus? Is the Church responding to all who may need friendship, a helping hand. Coffee mornings, group activities even letting out the hall to non-Church groups is a means of outreach. Are we seizing these opportunities or are we too busy and not taking care of the bare essentials?

Questions to Ponder this week

How do I view my Church community? Is it genuinely welcoming, or off putting to newcomers?
Am I praying for those who do not yet know Jesus and for ways to connect with them?

Prayers for others

We pray for all struggling this week whether through physical, mental or financial reasons.
For all who are lonely, ill, or grieving. For families in distress. All countries in turmoil whether through natural disasters, war, political instability. Churches looking at their future work/outlook.

Hymns & Psalms 790 *John Page Hopps 1834-1911*

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| 1. Father, lead me day by day,
Ever in thine own good way
Teach me to be pure and true;
Show me what I ought to do. | 2. When in danger, make me brave;
Make me know that thou canst save;
Keep me safe by thy dear side;
Let me in thy love abide. |
| 3. When I'm tempted to do wrong,
Make me steadfast, wise, and strong;
And when all alone I stand
Shield me with thy mighty hand. | 5. When my work seems hard and dry,,
may I press on cheerily;
Help me patiently to bear
Pain and hardship, toil and care |

Closing prayer

The Blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, rest and remain with each one of you, now and for ever more. Amen