

Sunday May 8th 2022: Fourth Sunday of Easter

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Hymn StF 295 H&P 250

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord: Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation: Alleluia, alleluia...

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen: Alleluia, alleluia...

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour: Alleluia, alleluia...

Donald Fishel (b. 1950) CCL nos. 5365402

Prayer

Risen Jesus,

We thank you and praise you for your life, death and resurrection.

We thank you and praise you for being with us now in your risen power.

We thank you and praise you for your guidance, strength and support through life.

We are sorry for the times we forget you, and the times we let you down.

Help us to know your forgiveness, your everlasting love, and your companionship always.

Amen.

Psalm set for today: Psalm 23

To think about

This well-known and popular Psalm is set on the 4th Sunday of Easter every year of the 3-year lectionary cycle. Why do you think it is such a good Psalm for the Easter season?

Hymn StF 481

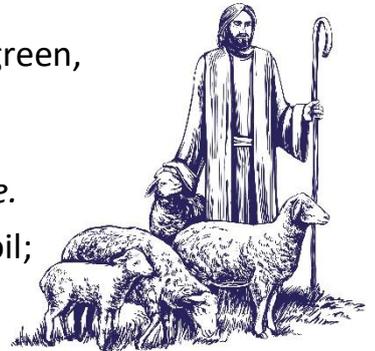
The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want / he makes me lie in pastures green,
he leads me by the still, still waters / his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone / and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me / your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness / and he anoints my head with oil;
and my cup – it overflows with joy / I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path – I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff / are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) CCL no. 5365402



Gospel Reading set for today: John 10 v 22 – 30

Message from a Circuit friend

Why won't God-fearing and God-loving people accept one another? Why are 'we' always right and 'they' always wrong. I found the pictures on our television screens of Jerusalem three weeks ago desperately sad. It so happened, you may remember, that the Muslim Ramadan, the Jewish Passover and the Christian Easter all coincided. And what were people doing – hugging and welcoming one another? No – throwing stones and other missiles and creating a riot. How that must grieve God. That was basically the same problem that faced Jesus in the gospel reading. There he was in the Temple and the religious authorities asked him yet again if he was the Christ. When he pointed out that he had already told them and proved it by his deeds they didn't want to know. This, of course, was because they had already made up their minds that he wasn't so it was very inconvenient to be faced with proof that he was. Jesus' comment that they do not believe is significant. The ancient Greek word translated 'believe' is not simply a cerebral word, a religious list you are asked to sign up to. It is

an active word better translated 'trust'. It has consequences. (You might believe your sat-nav works but that won't help you to get where you want to be unless you trust it and follow the directions.) Jesus makes this clear when he emphasises the consequences of trusting him. I find it really sad that the 'religious authorities' would have none of it – and this ultimately led to the cross. But also, the cross led to the resurrection. We need to make sure who we trust and then get on with the job. If you read your Bible carefully you will notice God doesn't give us much time for dithering about. Try Acts chapter 9 – the whole of it, not just Paul's conversion.

Tony Hey (Local Preacher and member of Holt Methodist Church)

Hymn StF 348 H&P 256

He is Lord, he is Lord / He is risen from the dead and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess / that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King... He is Life... He is Love... He is Lord...

Anonymous CCL no. 5365402

Prayers of Intercession for Vocations Sunday

Gracious God,

We pray for those who face division, hostility, war... God who calls us to follow in love:
call from your Church people to help.

We pray for those who face hunger, homelessness, unemployment, economic difficulty...
God who calls us to follow in love: **call from your Church people to help.**

We pray for those who are worried, anxious, ill, tired, depressed, stressed...
God who calls us to follow in love: **call from your Church people to help.**

We pray for those who challenge injustice, who speak out, who offer a prophetic voice,
who campaign for a better world...

God who calls us to follow in love: **call from your Church people to help.**

We pray for those who respond to your calling even when it is challenging,
or means they have to do things that are uncomfortable...

God who calls us to follow in love: **call from your Church people to help. Amen**

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

Hymn H&P 687

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word / what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still / and with all who trust and obey.
Trust and obey / for there's no other way / to be happy in Jesus / but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love / until all on the altar we lay;
for the favour he shows and the joy he bestows / are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet / or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go – never fear, only trust and obey.

John Henry Sammis (1846 – 1914) CCL no. 5365402

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

Circuit News: Many churches are organising special events for the platinum Jubilee weekend. Ask your minister or a steward if you want to know what is going on near you. A specially produced book 'Our faithful Queen' is available from the shop on the website www.hopetogether.org.uk. "This 64-page gift book full of photos includes rarely-seen prayers from a book of devotions written for the Queen to use from 1 May to 2 June 1953 – her Coronation Day." One copy is £5 but bulk orders – to give out at events – take the cost down.

Wider News: Christian Aid Week is May 15th – 22nd. Resources for prayer and worship can be found on the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk.