

Sunday 11th February 2024: Sunday before Lent

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



StF 20 MP 50 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' by David Evans (b 1957)

Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

Old Testament Reading set for today: 2 Kings 2 v 1 – 12

Gospel reading set for today: Mark 9 v 2 – 9

StF 134 H&P 457 'Christ whose glory fills the skies' by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Message from a Circuit Friend

The transfiguration of Jesus is the account of Peter, James and John accompanying Jesus on to a mountain top. Whilst there they witnessed Jesus' clothes becoming dazzling white and saw him talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter was frightened and blurted out the suggestion of making 3 shelters. Was this just out of fear or saying the first thing that came into his head? Did Peter sense that this was special, something extraordinary and wanted to preserve the moment? We don't know but then a voice was heard '***This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!***' and when they look only Jesus is present. As they descend from the mountain top Jesus tells them that they must not speak of this until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. Did they really understand this or were they too frightened to want to share it, thinking they might not be believed. Did they keep to this? Did the other disciples ask where they had been? Whatever the outcome and I like to think they obeyed, Mark recorded it in his gospel! For me the important thing is God telling of his relationship with Jesus and telling the disciples to Listen to Jesus. How do we listen? Is it through studying the Bible, listening to a sermon, a mountain top experience? Is it through the Holy Spirit instructing us?

Many years ago, 3 young people from a youth fellowship were sent to a conference where we each grew in our faith. A year later I returned to the same conference and a leader from the previous year asked me how I was. I explained I had gone off so excited and enthused to really live out my faith but I had found it hard. Her wise words were "You cannot live on the mountain top you have to come down." We like the disciples have moments of wonder and excitement and we want to sprint ahead, but we have to use those experiences in our day to day routines so that we can be witnesses wherever we are to the good news of Jesus.

Aileen Fox (Local Preacher and member of The Pilgrim Methodist Church)

Prayer to follow the Message

Loving God, we love those joyful moments, those exciting experiences which spur us on to share your love. But we also know that we cannot live on the mountain top for ever and must work through the mundane tasks of everyday. Help us to see these as opportunities to share the Good News. Amen

StF 338 MP 673 'There is a Redeemer' by Melody Green (b 1946) and Keith Green (1953)

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

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

StF 494 H&P 517 'Come thou fount of every blessing' by Robert Robinson (1735 – 1790)

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: Lent begins this week on 14th February. Many churches have acts of worship on Ash Wednesday or Lent courses and/or other activities. Find out what your local church is doing from the stewards or from the Minister.