

Sunday 19th September

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

At this time, in our homes, let us worship God...

with open ears ready to listen,
and hearts ready to receive,
minds willing to be challenged,
and attitudes given to God.
Come, we worship God as one.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

We light our candle as a sign of the light and love of Christ that has broken into our darkness and banishes all fear.

A candle is lit

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Come, Holy Spirit, come,
Come and fill us.
Come, Lord of life, come,
Come and fill us.
Come, wind of heaven, come,
Come and fill us.
Come, flame of love, come,
Come and fill us.
Come, giver of all gifts, come,
Come and fill us.

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask his forgiveness of our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

Let us be still as we come into the presence of God.

HYMN

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
your daily stage of duty run;
shake off your sleep, and joyful rise
to make your morning sacrifice.

Redeem your mis-spent time that's past
and live this day as if your last;
improve your talent with due care,
for God's great Day yourself prepare.

Let all your speaking be sincere,
your conscience as the noonday clear;
think how all-seeing God surveys
your secret thoughts and all your ways.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
in heaven above and earth below;
one God, three persons, we adore
to him be praise for evermore!

CONFESSION

Jesus said: 'Anyone who wants to be first must be last.'

Lord, for the times I've put myself first, or argued with people, because I think I know better than them...

Please forgive me,

For the times when I don't want to be a servant because I'm too important...

Please forgive me,

When I don't recognise Christ in those around me because I'm too busy looking out for myself...

Please forgive me,

When I don't understand what people mean, or understand their feelings and fears...

Please forgive me,

When I jostle for position, rather than being happy where you put me...

Please forgive me,

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

CANTICLE

Saviour of the World

Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy:
we look to you to save and help us.

By your cross and your life laid down
you set your people free:
we look to you to save and help us.

When they were ready to perish, you
saved your disciples:
we look to you to come to our help.

In the greatness of your mercy, loose us
from our chains,
forgive the sins of all your people.

Make yourself known as our Saviour and
mighty deliverer;
save and help us that we may praise
you.

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ
Jesus:
hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory:
make us to be one with you and to share
the life of your kingdom.

READING

The reader says:

The reading is from **Mark 9.30-37**

After the reading, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION. (*Roots on the Web*)

Our response to the disciples' bickering might be 'How silly!' They didn't understand what Jesus had said and were

too afraid to ask. So, getting into an argument about who was the greatest was perhaps their way of avoiding what Jesus had said about his death and resurrection.

Later, they seemed to be embarrassed by what they were doing. Was it the subject matter of their discussion that embarrassed them, or because they had avoided Jesus' statement? Maybe a bit of both.

It is interesting to wonder what the disciples meant by 'greatness'. The best or the 'most trusted' or 'most important' They competed with one another in ways that are very familiar to us today.

And Jesus' response? Maybe he thought 'Here we go again! Will they never learn?' He calls them over and joins in their conversation and steers it in a new direction. His next statement increases the confusion. He speaks of the first being last and the last being first. Is Jesus telling his friends that their argument about greatness was redundant? Jesus' own way of life showed humility and servanthood. Those who declared themselves the greatest had clearly not understood the message he brought. To Jesus – in the kingdom of God – the greatest are those who regard themselves as the least, and act accordingly.

What might this say to us today? We probably cannot avoid an element of competition, between ourselves and others, in everyday matters. But are we clear that this has no place in God's kingdom, or in church life? Are we ever tempted to see ourselves as better than others? Because if we are, we, like the disciples, have not yet understood. Maybe reflecting on these things– on the life of Christ, on his humility, his walking and talking with those no-one else wanted to be with, his serving others and more – can help us find our greatness...not in ourselves but in him and his life.

HYMN

Take my life and let it be consecrated to
Thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them
flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the
impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and
beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always,
only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with
messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a might
would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use every power as
You shall choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be
no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be
Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord I pour at Your feet,
its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be ever, only,
all for Thee.

INTERCESSIONS

We pray for peace, Lord God,
for peace in homes,
in communities,
in the world.

Ease tensions and lessen violence
everywhere, we pray,
and teach us to live in respect and unity.

Oh Lord hear our prayer

We pray for peace in your church,
Lord God.

Unite us by your Spirit,

that your people may live by your word,
expressing your gracious love
to the glory of your name.

Oh Lord hear our prayer

We pray for peace between nations:
We hold before you the consequences of
the conflict in Afghanistan.
show us the way of peace.

Oh Lord hear our prayer

We pray for peace of mind
for the searching,
for the unhappy,
for the guilty,
for those who grieve.

Make this community of yours
a harbour of peace and tranquillity
for all who need to know peace.

Oh Lord hear our prayer

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against
us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
 Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
 I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
 I dare not trust my judgment: Thy way shall be my will;
 Oh, speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
 Oh, speak, and help me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
 That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;
 And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end—
 Oh, give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footprints, and in them plant mine own;
 My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength alone;
 Oh, guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
 And then in Heav'n receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Eternal God,
 our beginning and our end,
 accompany us in this day's journey.
 Dawn on our darkness,
 open our eyes to praise you for your creation
 and to see the work you set before us today.
 Take us and use us
 to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Orebeck Benefice Pilgrim's

Prayer is a sign of our unity in Christ and our pilgrimage together as individuals and churches

Open our hearts to your love, Father God, as we journey with you;

Renew us each day, as we dwell in your presence.

Encourage us when we feel downtrodden,

Bring us comfort when we are sad,

Enliven us so that we may always be ready to serve You and

Care for others in the strength of God's love,

Kindle, we pray, all that works towards the coming of your kingdom. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
 and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Next Sunday:

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
11am	Harvest Service	Brandeston
11am	Holy Communion	Easton
11am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Hacheston
11am	Harvest Service	Marlesford
6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Kettleburgh