



Pentecost August 11th 2019



Building bridges Rochester



God descending? Norwich

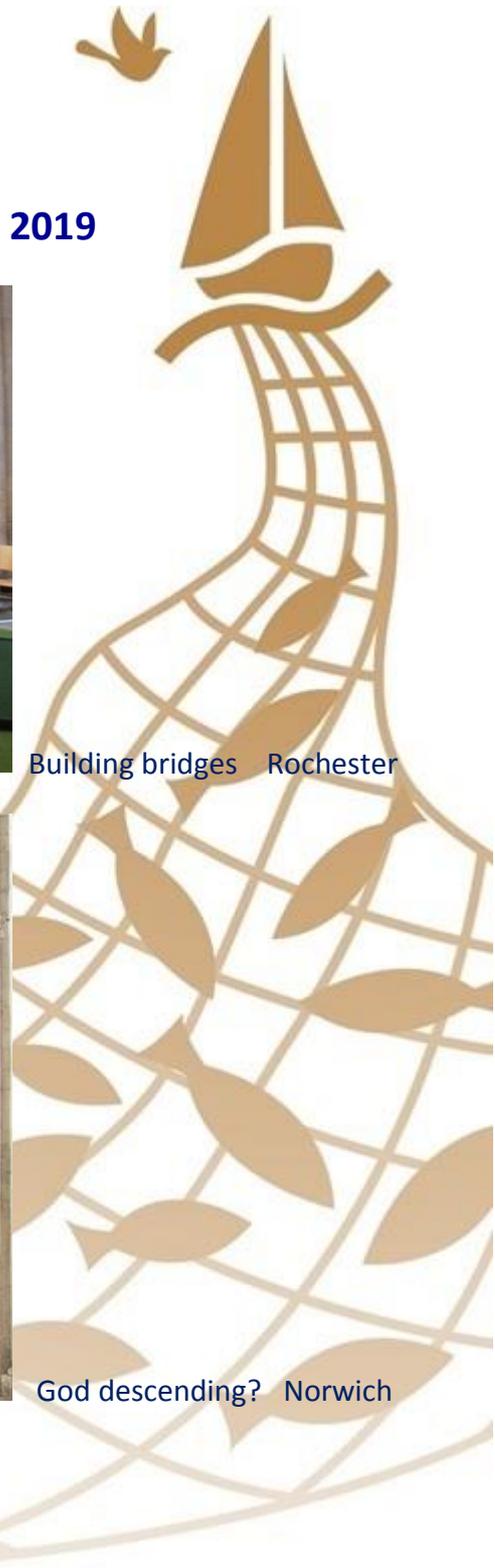
Call to thoughtfulness Emily Dickinson Tell it slant

**Tell all the Truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies;**

**Too bright for mind's infirm intent,
The Truth's superb surprise.**

**As Lightning to the Children eased,
With explanation kind;**

**The Truth must dazzle gradually,
Or every man be blind.**





Giant manta ray seeks help from a diver

PRAYER God is not silent based on psalm 50 1-8 22-23 URC p 78

So, let us be still and let us listen for the breath of God, in this place

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, give us your peace!

2 SAMUEL 7 1 - 17 p 263 Beware all who read these words to suit their own ends

HYMN a patchwork tent Words John Campbell Tune Ye banks and braes 718 Piano

Though we had thought you must provide a seamless robe of fitted truth,
you offer as your gift of grace these awkward texts devoid of proof:
a patchwork pile of pain and joy,
a *palimpsest of life and pray'r,
a remnant-store rich-layered with love,
a haberdashery to share.

And to it each must bring their own, rough-shaped and frayed though that may be,
'til, worked together, stitched and shared, we all may then begin to see
the story of the love of God
emerge, cross-stitched with threads of prayer,
from patchwork texts and complex lives -
the Christ-like tapestry we share.

And what we work and then repair - not coloured robe, but patchwork tent -
must host us in our Saviour's name and welcome strangers, not prevent.
Thus, gifted, challenged, moving on
across the arid wastes we share,
we each and all may live within
your **caravanserai of care.

HymnQuest ID: 86861

* an ancient manuscript reused with the original text overwritten by another text

** a kind of truck stop for camel trains in the desert



Reflection Where do we gather; where is the resting place, the sharing space?
Where is church, the well?

OFFERTORY HYMN 716 Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead

We gather at a table

Prayer (Luke 12:32-40) Do not be afraid **URC p79** and the Lord's Prayer

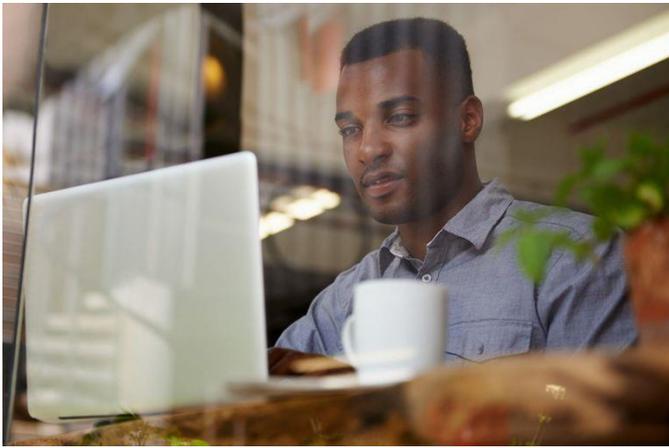
HYMN 659 Put peace into each other's hands **Tune St Columba 598**



...but their eyes were kept from recognising him

Luke 24, 16

*Resurrection is not as much about great explanation as it is about vibrant dinners around tables.
And we who have had our eyes opened at such gatherings still dare to believe that Jesus will show up
and open more eyes.*



ITHACA C P Cavafy Collected Poems Princeton University Press 1975

As you set out for Ithaka hope your road is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.
Laistrygonians, Cyclops, angry Poseidon — don't be afraid of them:
you'll never find things like that on your way
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
as long as a rare excitement stirs your spirit and your body.
Laistrygonians, Cyclops, wild Poseidon—you won't encounter them
unless you bring them along inside your soul,
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope your road is a long one.

May there be many summer mornings when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you enter harbours you're seeing for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations to buy fine things,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind — as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to learn and go on learning from their scholars.
Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.

But don't hurry the journey at all.

Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way, not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.
Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you wouldn't have set out.

She has nothing left to give you now.
And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

HYMN 172 Sing for Gods' glory

The Blessing after which we sing

**May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place
May the Love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace**