

# twelvebaskets

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## **EASTER 6A**

14th May 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Loving God,  
This day, I give you thanks for the life you breath into me,  
the world you create with care and love,  
the gifts you've bestowed on me,  
and the solid foundations you have laid for me to build my life upon.

Merciful Father,  
I confess that I get distracted and forget to rely on you when I face difficulties.

I confess that I sometimes forget to look for you in the strangers I meet,  
I forget to use words to build up and spread love,  
I sometimes struggle to reflect you when I am burdened by worries and fears.

Thank you that you do not keep a record of any of our wrongs and that I can start each new day in the full assurance of your forgiveness and never-ending love.

Lord, our refuge and our strength,  
fill me afresh with your spirit,  
replenish my low reserves,  
energise me to seek you,  
to listen to you,  
to love you,  
and to love my fellow human beings, this planet, and all creation, as you desire.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are most familiar.**

### Hymn:

94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done! - [YouTube](#)

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**Reading:** John 14:15-21 – [Click for reading](#)

### Response to the reading

These verses in John 14 are a small part of the very lengthy discourse given by Jesus which John records taking place on the eve of Jesus' death, at the Last Supper. Here Jesus is both reassuring and challenging his disciples – if they want to prove their love for Jesus they must keep his commandments.

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<sup>1</sup> Opening prayers written by Sheila Matthews

The disciples will be empowered by 'another Advocate', the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promises will be sent by God after Jesus has left them. In this final week of the Easter season, before the celebration of Pentecost next Sunday, we too are reassured by these words of Jesus; we too can receive once again the power of the Spirit who will live within us and through whom we will know that we are closely bound up with God, with Christ, in love, for ever.

- What do you think of when people talk about the 'Holy Spirit'? How do you picture this crucial, perhaps most mysterious part of the Trinity?
- Have you had an experience of encountering the Holy Spirit in your own life? Or heard stories of other people's encounters? How do they make you feel?
- There is much we don't understand about faith – as the next suggested hymn explores. As you listen to the recording of the hymn, you might like to write down the 'things you don't know'. Keeping a 'things I don't know the answer to' journal is a great way to stay humble and reflect on something of the mystery of God.

Find someone you trust this week with whom you can talk about these questions.

### **Hymn:**

350 STF – I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

And so, I shall go out with joy, and be sent forth with peace,  
May the God of joy and love and hope and peace go with me,  
Lifting my hearts in times of pain, and dancing with me in times of laughter.

May I go in peace, and serve the Lord,

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week**

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

- Today is the International Day of Families, as designated by the UN.
- God my Father and God my Mother, I pray today for my own family, and the families known to me.  
I give thanks for all that is life giving, and hold before you all that is painful, when I think about family.  
Show me how to be a force for love in my own family and in the families in the community around me.  
Amen.

## **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

- God of all grace, thank you that you accept me, just as I am.  
Help me to use my own skills and knowledge to help make the world a better place, to pass on the grace I have received.  
Show me what is mine to do, O God.  
Amen.

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

- Think about how God is at work in the lives of everyone. You can see God shining out from all people.
- Remember this with the next person you speak to, and give thanks for the glimpses of God you see in them.

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

- Today, we pray for all who are making long journeys, and for those who work to keep our roads and railways as safe as possible. You might like to think of someone you know who works in transport, or who is making a long journey this week, and take time to pray for them. If its appropriate, you could let them know you have been praying.

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

- Creator God, great shepherd of the sheep, fill me with your hope as I pray. Holy Spirit, give me the strength and courage for this day, fill me with the peace I need, and the joy of being surrounded by your love. Help me to notice where your love is at work in the world, and to get involved where I can.  
Lord of love, show me what is mine to do today.  
Amen.

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

- Pour a glass of water.
- Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water.
- Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.