

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 29C

16th October 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Hymn:

51 STF – Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Here I am, Lord God, come and move here by your Spirit
Inspire and uplift me during this time and space,
That I might be transformed by your grace
That I may learn more of you and grow as one of your followers.

Holy Spirit of God, who tethers us together as one human family around the world
and reminds us that we are threaded to the whole of creation, to everything that has
breath.

Today, I pause to remember and give thanks for the knowledge that you are always
in our midst. We celebrate the gifts of goodness that have made themselves known
to us in ways too many to count.

Today, I pause to grieve the losses I and those I know have endured, and I come in
prayer to draw hope and comfort from remembering that you will never leave any of
us alone, that there is no place we can go that you do not go first, and that wherever
you are there is always life in all of its abundance.

Receive me, O God, in the joys and sorrows of life, and remind me again that
nothing can ever separate me from your love.

In Christ, all things hold together.

Amen.¹

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

Readings: Luke 18:1-8 – [Click for readings](#)

Response to the readings:

The Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann, describes justice this way. He
says that justice is trying to figure out what belongs to whom and then giving it back
to them. Perhaps that is the kind of justice that the widow in today's story is seeking.
Maybe she longs to be heard, and seen, so that someone notices, and responds, to
the reality that her life, her human existence, is not what it should be.

The story doesn't tell us much about her. It appears that she is a widow so we can
assume that she has no man to speak for her, or for her family. She is most likely
without financial resources and very "at risk" in a community that can take advantage
of someone in a desperate situation. She may be, for all practical purposes, invisible.

¹ Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

That is often what happens to those who have little resources, and thus, no voice in the marketplace.

The widow has hopes and dreams for a life that is better than what she has, and it may upset my apple cart, but I still see within her, an image of God.” The question we are left asking ourselves is, “In this world of uncertainty, will we journey together in faith?” The antidote to uncertainty and fear is always found in the hope of God’s promise of life in all of its abundance. May we see within each other, and within those we meet, stranger and friend, an image of God that was placed there, by God’s design.

May it be so for you, and also for me. Thanks be to God.

What does justice mean to you?

How are you involved in seeking justice in your community, your country, your world?

Whose hopes and dreams for a better life can you help to become reality today?²

Hymn:

662 STF – Have you hear God's voice; has your heart been stirred? - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

I go from this place refreshed and renewed,

I go from this moment with a fresh encounter with the Living God in my heart and mind,

I go to seek a better world where justice and peace reign,

Amen.³

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 17th October

- Let us pray for justice: justice in our own communities, justice at home, justice in the wider world.

We give thanks for all who commit their time, energy and resources to seeking justice, and pray that we might all find the strength to play our part, reflecting on Walter Brueggemann’s idea that was introduced in this weeks reflection, that justice is finding out what belongs to whom and giving it to them.

² Reflection written by DeeDee Haines

³ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Tuesday 18th October

- Think of a question you have about your faith. Either look it up on the internet, or ask somebody else about it.
- How does God meet you in what you hear?
- Have you changed your thoughts or beliefs or feelings as a result of what you've learned?

Wednesday 19th October

- On this day in 1512 (the small matter of 510 years ago today!), Martin Luther became a doctor of theology. His thinking, writing and challenging of the established church at the time created space for a new diversity of theology and a shake-up of the religious institutions at the time.
- Today we pray for all who are thinking outside the box, all who are able to push the boundaries and create space for ideas, people and communities who were previously excluded.
- Come, creative, creator God.
Amen.

Thursday 20th October

- What injustices make you angry in the world?
- Consider the ways you see God as a God of justice and pray that God will work through those injustices.

Friday 21st October

- God of all blessings,
Thank you for the gift of food to eat,
For the flavours and the smells,
The energy and enjoyment I can get from the food I eat.
- I'm sorry for all the times I've taken for granted the food on my plate, the ingredients in my fridge, the ready meals in my freezer.
And for all the other blessings I have received that I often overlook or forget to be thankful for.
Thank you Lord, for you are good to me.

Amen.

Saturday 22nd October

- Draw a picture of your local church.
- Include on the picture all the ways you see God at work, and all the things you want to ask God to work in. Pray about it.