

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## ORDINARY 11A

18th June 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Opening / Centering prayers

Living, loving God, you have brought me here,  
And here I am to worship.

For a moment, I have turned aside from the busyness and business of the day, to  
come and meet with you.

As I sing, as I worship, as I pray and listen, talk and reflect, give and learn,  
Come here into this space, please Lord – by your grace,  
Inspire me – by your Spirit,  
Challenge me – with your love.

As I worship, show me how to go from here to play my part in forming a better, safer,  
kinder, more Christ-like world.

Creator and Sustainer, you have brought me here,  
And here I am to worship.

I know though, O Lord, that I have often fallen short of your glory,  
I have been distracted by the things of this world and drawn away from your calling on  
my life.

Come to me now, O God, by your grace, and forgive me for all my shortcomings.  
*[Pause].*

Even as I repent and say sorry, I know you have already forgiven me, and for that I am  
truly grateful.

Thank you Lord, for this time to worship you and gather in your name,  
Thank you that by your Spirit, I am connected with all those worshipping, all around  
the world, on this Lord's day.

I have come here, come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

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

### Hymn:

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn - [YouTube](#)

**Readings:** Matthew 10:1-23 – [Click for the reading](#)

### Response to the reading

In today's reading, Jesus sends the disciples out, telling them not to be disheartened  
by negativity along the way. Maybe they're hoping to go about changing lives left right  
and centre. Perhaps you can relate? Have you ever set out to make a real difference,  
assuming everyone will go with you on the journey?

The reality is that they're going to have some doors shut in their face, and that's not the end of the world. Perhaps you have a story about that too – spend some time thinking about how that story makes you feel, and what resources you have to help you respond to the emotions it raises. You might like to talk to someone you trust about this.

The relationship the disciples have with Jesus is stronger than the reactions of the people they minister to. Jesus doesn't want them to be crushed by the disappointment of people not being ready to hear the word. God is bigger than all of that.

Lutheran Pastor and author Nadia Bolz-Weber had this to say on the subject:

“This community will disappoint them. It's a matter of when, not if. We will let them down or I'll say something stupid and hurt their feelings. I then invite them on this side of their inevitable disappointment to decide if they'll stick around after it happens. If they choose to leave when we don't meet their expectations, they won't get to see how the grace of God can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failure, and that's just too beautiful and too real to miss.”

Do you have an experience of a community like this?

Is your church or a church near you able to demonstrate the nature of God's grace in community?

How could the communities you are part of practice this principle more clearly?

May we delight in the renewing power of hope, which sustains and motivates us.

When we pray, may we remember that God's ways are far beyond our understanding, and the answers we think we are seeking may not be the ones we get.

### **Hymn:**

239 STF – Sent by the Lord am I - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

Go and enter into the flow of love that is at work in the universe.

Go and discover that God is out there, moving, transforming, touching lives and all creation.

Go and encounter the Spirit of God.

Amen.

---

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

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

- Make a cup or tea or coffee, or something else to drink. As you drink it, imagine all the places and people that are responsible for making it, from source to your lips. Thank God for them, the source of all life.

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

- Find something in your house that is symbolic of your faith. Hold it. Give thanks for the journey of faith that God has taken you on in your lifetime.
- Ask for God to guide you on your onward journey.

## **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

- Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.

## **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

- Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus' light might shine there.

## **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

- Loving God,  
Thank you, for this day.  
Help me to recognise it as a gift.  
Help me to use this gift to be a blessing to others.  
Come, by your grace, Lord. Amen.

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

- Write a note or a message to a friend with a Bible verse in it that you think might be relevant to your life. Tell them you're thinking of them, and pray about them as they receive it.