

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 13A

2nd July 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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

Opening Prayers

Use the following words to help centre yourself in the moment. Say them out loud, or speak them in your mind.

Jesus, open my heart.

Prepare yourself to hear God's word in a new way

Jesus, open my heart.

Listen for God's voice, calling you to serve others and love radically

Jesus, open my heart

Hold the joys, regrets and frustrations from the week, and look ahead to the opportunities next week will bring

Jesus, open my heart

Hold the people you share your life with, and the challenges that come with relationships and friendships

Jesus, open my heart.

Rest a moment in the quiet

Jesus, open my heart.

Amen.

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

Hymn:

548 STF – Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine - [YouTube](#)

Readings: Matthew 10:40-42 – [Click for reading](#)

Response to on the reading

What does a 'welcome' look like for you?

What things do you like to do in your home to welcome others, or how do you receive the welcome of other people when you are a guest?

In Matthew we read:

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

1. How is your church or community or family practicing the kind of welcome that Jesus describes in today's gospel reading?
2. What does it mean to welcome a prophet? How do we listen to the voices of people who can speak into the society and world we live in? How can we make space for these voices?
3. When do we make it difficult for people to have a space at the table? Who do we turn away?

Grace is a radical welcome that looks beyond 'swapping lunch dates' and welcoming people who 'look like us'. In the Kin-dom of grace that Jesus teaches about, and we are invited to model, we don't earn our place, but that in the midst of all that is difficult, love breaks out. As Paul Tillich writes about grace in *Shaking the Foundations*:

"Sometimes...a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: "You are accepted. You are accepted, accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know. Do not ask for the name now; perhaps you will find it later. Do not try to do anything now; perhaps later you will do much. Do not seek for anything; do not perform anything; do not intend anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted!" If that happens to us, we experience grace. After such an experience we may not be better than before, and we may not believe more than before. But everything is transformed."

May that be so for you, and for each of us.

Hymn:

As a way of responding to all that you've read, thought about and learned today, you might like to listen to this song. Join in if you can, and use it as a prayer:

611 STF – Brother, sister, let me serve you - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Jesus the Christ is restoring the whole of creation,
Holding all things together.

Today, as I go from this place, I choose to play my part in that restoration.
And may the peace of God go with you, every single step of the way.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 3rd July

- God of love,
Today I pray for refugees and exiles all around the world,
Those who are living in fear and have fled the place they call home.
Show me how to show love to those in need,
To be a place of sanctuary to all who encounter me,
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Tuesday 4th July

- What does the good news of the Gospel feel like to you?
- Can you express it as a prayer of thanks in just a sentence or two?
- Once you have chosen or written your sentences, why not find someone to share that prayer with – as a text, or over the phone, or via email, or by chatting to someone today.

Wednesday 5th July

- 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 6th July

- Do you have a favourite poem or song?
- It doesn't have to be explicitly Christian. Consider the ways the good news of God is communicated through the words.
- If it helps, use these words as a prayer today, perhaps humming or repeating them over and over again during the day.

Friday 7th July

- Today is the 7th of the 7th, a holy number in many traditions, but also a reminder for many in the UK of the 7/7 bombings in London.
- Today let us pray for all victims of violence, and all who live in fear.
- Lord, heal our wounds and bind us together. Amen.

Saturday 8th July

- Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else.
- Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?