

# twelvebaskets

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## **EPIPHANY 3A**

22nd January 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

Come into this space, by your grace, O Holy Spirit,  
Come and inspire me to encounter you again  
Come and transform me,  
That I may seek to walk in your paths, to follow your way, to worship you as my Lord  
and Saviour.

On this day of worship, this day of rest,  
I am waiting Lord, waiting here for you.

God of all grace, help me today as I am beginning again my journey with you.  
I am seeking you Lord, seeking here for you.

God of all love, help me today as I am wanting to know more of you.  
Come here, today, by your Spirit.

Your invitation is to presence, not busy-ness,  
To prayer, not stress,  
To hope, not despair.  
Help me to hear that call today.

You are full of grace, O God, and you forgive us for who we are and what we've done.  
I am sorry for all I have done wrong.  
Thank you for your love for me, which surpasses all understanding, all failing.

Today, then, as I worship: I hold this space for stillness.  
I pause in the silence and let it settle on me.  
I pause for longer than feels usual.  
I pause to focus on you, Lord God, and am asking you to reveal yourself to me again  
Ask God to reveal God-self in what you are to be a part of.

*Pause.*

Loving God, I pray that I will meet you in this time of worship.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

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

### **Hymn:**

706 STF – Longing for light – [YouTube](#)

**Reading:** Matthew 4:12-23 – [Click for reading](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

## Response to the reading

‘Those who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.’

Take a look at these four questions. You might like to spend some time journaling or doodling your reflections and responses. If you are with someone you trust, or could call someone up to have a discussion with them about your answers, then we’d encourage you to do so.

Who are the people you find it hardest to connect with? Where do you see difference more clearly than similarities?

What barriers do you build or have you built?

What barriers or boundaries do you feel like you are outside of: how are you excluded?

How can you do something about those barriers and prejudices, the ones in yourself, the ones you are responsible for, and the ones you are affected by?

*[Pause].*

Based on the radical way Jesus lived his life, inviting people into his story, bringing radical love and challenging the barriers we build, let's finish with a simple challenge to take into this week. Let's remember that Jesus came and lived amongst us so those who walked in darkness would see a great light. We can all be that great light to all we meet this week when we focus on what we share rather than what divides us.

*You might like to say this simple prayer:*

Loving God, thank you that you accept me just as I am. May I become more accepting, more loving, more forgiving. May I be a person who channels your great light out into the world,  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>

**You may like to sing along to or listen to one or both of these hymns, as you reflect on what you might be called to in response to today's act of worship.**

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

465 STF – Guide me, O thou great Jehovah – [YouTube](#)

## Blessing

God of all grace, may I go from this place, to seek a world of wholeness, a world of harmony, a world where your grace is revealed to all people in all places.

Empower me, by your Spirit.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Reflection written by Tim Baker

<sup>3</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

## Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

- Chose a piece of music that you find relaxing or calming (you might like to look up something by Karl Jenkins if you have no immediate inspiration!).
- Spend some time just listening to the music, ideally with your eyes closed and your hands still. Switch off from the distractions of modern life, just for a few moments.
- Pray about any of the emotions you notice or feel during this time.

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

- In some Catholic traditions, today is celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady of Peace (one of the titles given to Mary, the Mother of Jesus).
- Today, for your prayers, you might like to focus on peace. There are live wars happening in our world and you may wish to pray about them, using a news website to help you learn about any that you might not be aware of.
- Or, you may feel you need to pray for peace in your own life, or the lives of those close to you. For those experiencing relationship breakdown, violence, conflict or tension.
- Prince of Peace, come amongst us.

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

- Tonight is 'Burns Night', a celebration particularly marked in Scotland, but also all over the world in celebration and thankfulness for Robbie Burns, the great poet of Scotland.
- So today, our prayers are for poets and wordsmiths everywhere. People who find words to describe our feelings, to help us pray, worship, reflect on our human experience and learn more about ourselves.
- If that's you, or part of who you are, take a moment to give thanks for the gift of words, and to pray for yourself for a moment or two.
- And – if you are marking it – Happy Burns Night! Cheers!

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January

- God of all grace,  
Today I am thankful, for what I have received.  
Amongst all the pressures and stresses of life,  
I am taking a moment to be grateful, to notice your goodness at work in my life,  
To see that the whole universe is sparkling with love and possibility.
- Help me to live from a place of gratitude today,  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

- Today is International Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remember all the victims of the terrible atrocities carried out by the Nazis in the last century, but we also recognise that genocide continues to happen in the world today.
- You might like to light a candle, to have a moment of quiet, to look up some Holocaust poetry, or spend some time on the Holocaust Memorial website to help you focus your thoughts and prayers today [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

- Gracious God, thank you for this week.  
As I head into the weekend, show me how to be a channel of your grace, peace, hope and love out into the world.
- Lead me, by your Spirit, O God.
- Amen.