

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 22A

3rd September 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

In this space
Between the week behind me and the week to come
It's a good time to reflect...

God of all grace,
I bring you the past week, and take stock of everything I have experienced:
The challenges, the joys, the moments of mundanity, and the things I have learned.

I bring you the moments from this week of which I am not so proud:
The hurtful words I have said, and the uplifting ones I have left unsaid.
I bring you my own carelessness, my short temper, my selfishness
And I ask your forgiveness and renewal.

[Silence]

In this space
Between the week behind me and the week to come
It's a good time to look ahead...

I place this coming week into your hands, and ask for your strength
For every challenge or tough decision that comes my way.
I ask for your courage
For every opportunity that comes my way.
I ask that you will strengthen me to use the gifts you have given me.
I ask for your help to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus.

[Silence]

In this space
Between the week behind and the week to come
It's a good time to acknowledge...

I am never alone,
Every step of this journey, you walk alongside me:
My companion, my friend, my guide.

Even when it's difficult to feel your presence with me, you are there,
Rejoicing with me, weeping with me, guiding me along the path.
May I find all the courage that I need from this sure knowledge.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

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

Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 – [Click for reading](#)

Response to the reading:

Typically, in the Vine at Home, we have focused on the lectionary Gospel reading for each week. This week, we have chosen to focus rather on the Old Testament reading, from Exodus 3 – the story of Moses. This story of one of the Old Testament patriarchs is critical to understanding our tradition we are part of...

Moses doesn't come across like your typical hero – he's born and hidden in the bulrushes as a baby: the endangered Hebrew boy who was found and saved by an Egyptian princess. Though he was raised in a palace, like an Egyptian princeling, as he grew to manhood he knew himself to be an alien among the Egyptians: he was not one of them. Ethnically, he was a Hebrew, but his tribe rejected him. When he beat and killed an Egyptian slave master who was beating a Hebrew slave, Moses was forced to leave Egypt and go on the run. Moses was a murderer, a refugee, an alien and a foreigner, someone with a colourful past but no clear future direction. At this point in his life, reduced to tending his father-in-law's flock, you might describe him as one of life's failures... And yet, here we have a direct encounter between God and this down-and-out, this failure of a character...

And, God challenges Moses to be the agent of the divine: "Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Can Moses make the transition from zero to hero? Not unlike others in the Bible who are called, (e.g. Jeremiah and Jonah), Moses is resistant, "Who am I?" he asks. He's a reluctant hero, but God assures Moses that he will be provided with the skills and the means to rescue the people.

So, in the course of your daily life, look around you, find your 'bush,' approach God's holy place with awe: listen. Is God calling you to serve Him, to carry out a task in His name? Remember, the God who calls will provide. Old Age?: not an excuse. Inability: God will grant the skills.

For all of us are called as Christ's disciples to go out and proclaim the God who was, is and is to come...

Responding in music

615 STF – Let love be real, in giving and receiving - [YouTube](#)

471 STF – Lord I come to You - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Today, I have come into your presence, and heard something of your word,
I have turned aside from my life and noticed the divine.

As I step out of this space,
Help me to see that you go before me, wherever I go,
That you are a fast God, always ahead of me, always inviting me on.

I step out, in your name, Lord God,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 4th September

- On this day in 1998, Google was founded by two students at Stanford University.
- Today we pray for all involved in building, curating and monitoring internet activity, recognising the power they have in modern life and the need for moral, kind and loving leaders in these places.

Tuesday 5th September

- Today is marked as the feast day of Mother Teresa and, today, we simply invite you and yours to spend a few minutes praying about the needs in your area. Teresa responded remarkable to the needs in Calcutta in her time, and helped to inspire millions around the world.
- What does that look like for you today?

Wednesday 6th September

- 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 7th September

- Loving, living God,
Thank you for all the ways in which you have forgiven me,
Set me free,
Enabled me to see something of your grace at work in our world.
Show me how to be an agent of that same grace in the relationships and friendships I hold in the world.
In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.

Friday 8th September

- Sit silently for ten minutes and let your mind wander. Offer any thoughts and feelings to God.

Saturday 9th September

- Draw around the shape of your hand. Write on it the things that you're carrying that feel like burdens. Offer them to God in prayer, remembering that God carries your burdens with you.