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ALL SAINTS DAY C

30th October 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening prayers

God, I am here, in this space, on this day, to worship you, to seek your voice, and to be inspired, encouraged and challenged to go out into the world full of your presence, as your hands and feet.

Come Holy Spirit, and fill me afresh.

Pause.

Look at your feet.

Notice the scraps and marks on your shoes or slippers, or if your feet are bare notice the lines and wrinkles. Wiggle your toes and notice how that feels.

Look at the ground your feet are on. Is it a carpet? Or wood? Laminate or something else?

When you are ready, offer this time of worship to God

Creator God, thank you that my feet are on holy ground. As I sit here I choose to offer the time to you. I long to meet with you on this holy, ordinary ground.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

123 STF – Come, thou fount of every blessing - [YouTube](#)

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

Readings: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Luke 6:20-31 – [Click for reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

Today is known as All Saints Day. It is an opportunity to remember those who have journeyed before us, and who we look to for guidance. Have you ever said to someone “Oh, you’re a saint!” Close your eyes and think of that person now. What did you mean? Why did you think they were a saint? Traditionally, the word ‘saint’ brought to mind a figure of particular holiness, someone who performed a miracle, and often was martyred for their faith.

Rev Dr Babu Immanuel Venkataraman, a Methodist and associate professor of New Testament at the Theological Centre for Asia College, notes about this passage in Luke (referred to as the Beatitudes) that “for Jesus, love is not a sentiment. It means responding positively and lovingly when you are struck and abused and stolen from”. If

¹ Call to Worship written by Abi Jarvis

we are to love as Jesus loved, it must be shown in our actions as well as our emotions.

So who are our saints? Those who are faithful – who look to Christ’s rule above human injustice. Those who have a heart after Jesus’ own – who respond not with vengeance but with humility and love. Those led by the Holy Spirit, who act in God’s strength, and not their own. They might have changed the world, but they might also have changed a single life – perhaps yours, or someone you love.

Here are some questions for reflection or for you to speak in conversation with friends and neighbours this week.

- Who are the saints in your life?
- Why do you consider them to be a saint?
- What qualities do you think a saint might have?
- How might you learn from their example and be counted in their number?²

Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for being a God of justice, love and mercy. I ask that you help me to live after your example, to be a model for those around me.

Holy Spirit, fill me anew, that I might have the words to speak of your love, and that I would demonstrate that love through my actions.

Amen.³

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 31st Oct

- Today is the day that many people will be celebrating Halloween, but it is also the day that the Anglican communion celebrates Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation who – according to legend – pinned his ‘theses’ to the door of a church in Wittenberg.
- Luther’s thinking totally changed the church, challenging everything that had stood before.
- Today, as you pray, pray for all who play the role of prophet – challenging churches, communities and institutions to change their culture and their way of thinking, making space for grace and the Spirit of God to be at work.

² Reflection written by Abi Jarvis

³ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Tuesday 1st November

- The German theologian Meister Eckhart once said, 'if the only prayer you ever say in your life is "thank you", that will be enough'.
- Today, throughout the day (or whatever is left of the day), simply look for opportunities to pray the words 'thank you' to God.
- Thank you for the sunrise. Thank you for that I have enough food for the day. Thank you for my health, such as it is. Thank you for that lovely conversation with a friend. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
Amen.

Wednesday 2nd November

- Gracious God, show me how to love without borders or restrictions, how to radically live out your calling on my life and your challenge to all of us to live in the way of love.
- Show me how to be the kind of shepherd who would always go in search of the one most in need, how to reach out to the lost sheep in my life and community.
- Show me how to love as you love, O Christ.

Thursday 3rd November

- 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?

Friday 4th November

- On this day in 2008, Barack Obama became the President of the USA.
- Today we pray for all world leaders, whether we agree with their politics or not. We pray for grace, for wisdom, for the courage to lead and to discern the best way forward for our planet and the people who live in it.
- God of all grace, show us how we can support those most in need in our world, through our political systems and by engaging in democracy. Amen.

Saturday 5th November

- It's Bonfire Night today in the UK, and perhaps you are hearing fireworks going off as you read this, or making plans to attend or host a party of some sort over the weekend.
- As you listen to or see a firework, think about the explosive nature of these little bits of cardboard and gunpowder, which can be seen for miles around. Perhaps they are like your faith – it may seem small and relatively insignificant, but it can light up the sky and be a source of encouragement and wonder for others.
- Pray about how you can be a firework for others this weekend, and in the weeks ahead.