

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 32C

6th November 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Heavenly Father,
You are my refuge and protector,
my place of shelter and security,
the one who walks with me.

I lift my eyes and heart to you and give thanks for your endless love.

May I be reminded of the gifts you have given me,
the strength you provide,
and the eternal welcome you give to your people.
Today I join with all who are praying, and say: I will praise you and give thanks.

Why not say a quick prayer of 'thank you' to God right now, in the stillness?

[Silence]

And, together, with all the millions of others who are praying on this day, in a moment of silence, I confess my sins and recognise all the ways in which I have fallen short...

[Silence]

As I step into the river of prayer that runs around the world, I know myself forgiven, loved, accepted and set free.

Come and be with me Lord, as I seek to know more of you this day.

Amen.¹

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

Hymn:

46 STF – Everlasting God, the years go by - [YouTube](#)

Readings: Luke 20:27-38 – [Click for the reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

How does this passage make you feel?

How do you wrestle with questions about the afterlife?

Spend a few minutes reflecting and making some notes, drawings or immediate responses to these big questions.

¹ Opening prayers written by Sheila Matthews

And, when you've done that, have a think about how you communicate what you believe (or don't believe / understand) with non-Christian friends: do you talk to them about it?

Do you think it is a helpful topic of conversation, or not?

How do you navigate around these issues, particularly when sitting with people who are grieving or close to death?

What do you think you need to learn or get better at in order to do this sensitively in the future?

Offer all this reflection and questioning to God in prayer. You might like to watch this short video, or find something else that helps you focus on God, or take you outside of your thoughts, to help you do that:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2qOllkxwiw>

Blessing

Now, may I go out with joy and be sent forth with peace,
May I go and sing of God's goodness in the places where I will spend the rest of my week,

Now may I be open and ready for the encounter,
Charged and energized to be Christ's hands and feet.

Amen.²

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 7th 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.

² Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Tuesday 8th November

- Gracious God, I know you have plans for me- plans for me to be a part of your kingdom and an agent of love in the world.
- Today, show me how to respond to the invitations I might receive. Help me to be open to the opportunities to share your love.
- In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.

Wednesday 9th November

Be still.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still for the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Find spaces for stillness today. Be still, with no objective or intention, other than stillness, which is an end in itself.

Thursday 10th November

On this day, the Catholic church marks the day of Pope Leo I, also known as Leo the Great. His papacy has been described as 'one of the most important in the Church's history'.

Today, we take a moment to pray for all in leadership, particularly those who lead the church and take responsibility for its future.

God of all grace, show your grace to all who find themselves in a place of leadership. May each of them, may each of us, use our power for a better, safer, richer world.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday 11th November

- God of all blessings,
Thank you for the gift of food to eat,
For the flavours and the smells,
The energy and enjoyment I can get from the food I eat.
- I'm sorry for all the times I've taken for granted the food on my plate, the ingredients in my fridge, the ready meals in my freezer.
And for all the other blessings I have received that I often overlook or forget to be thankful for.
Thank you Lord, for you are good to me.

Amen.

Saturday 12th November

- Draw a picture of your local church.
- Include on the picture all the ways you see God at work, and all the things you want to ask God to work in. Pray about it.