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ORDINARY 10B

9th June 2024

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

As you sit here in this space you call your own ready to meet the living God remember:

- You are connected to people of faith worshipping in different ways and places.
- You are part of a community of saints that have worshipped for generations.
- You are joined with others across the world choosing to do the same.
- Here in this special space where God has been for all time you are free to worship.

So take a moment and give thanks in the quiet places of your heart.

For all you have,
All you are,
And all you might be.

Pause

If you feel able speak the following,
All I have, all I am and all I might be I offer to you as I worship – today and always
Amen.

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

Readings: Mark 3:20-35 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's gospel reading, Mark 3:20-35, we encounter a profound narrative that challenges traditional ideas of what community looks like. It's also a great passage for reminding us what it feels like to be misunderstood!

For those on a journey of discipleship, this passage offers rich insights into identity, mission, and the meaning of true belonging.

The passage begins with Jesus being accused by his own family of being out of his mind and by religious leaders of being possessed by Beelzebub. This sharp misunderstanding from both family and religious authorities can serve as a reflection point for today. In your efforts to live out a radical, inclusive, and transformative faith, you too might face misunderstanding or resistance, even from those you expect to provide support.

Reflect on the moments when you have felt misunderstood in your beliefs or actions. How have you navigated these challenges, and what has this reflection taught you about patience, resilience, and clarity in your discipleship journey?

Perhaps the most striking element of this passage is Jesus' redefinition of family: "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." This statement is uncomfortable for many of us, with our western understanding of the nuclear family. But it is an exciting call to recognise spiritual kinship that transcends family ties and societal boundaries.

Reflect on how you define your "family" within your faith community. How inclusive is this family? How might you expand your notion of kinship to more fully embrace those who are committed to doing God's will, regardless of their background, identity, or life story?

Finally, the analogy of a house divided, used by Jesus to refute the claims that Jesus is allied with Beelzebub, invites you to consider the importance of unity in your mission. In a world often marked by division, especially within the broader Christian community, consider how you can foster unity without compromising on the deep, sometimes radical values of the gospel.

How can you contribute to a discipleship that builds bridges, heals divisions, and creates a strong, united community focused on the common good?

May these questions and invitation into reflection challenge and inspire you in your journey of discipleship. May you find courage to face misunderstanding with grace, redefine kinship with inclusivity, uphold integrity in your spiritual discernment, and seek unity in your mission, that your life may vividly manifest the transformative love of God.

Amen.

Hymn:

504 STF – May the mind of Christ my Saviour - [YouTube](#)

Responding in prayer

As part of your response – you might like to pray these prayers, and ask these questions about the role of grace in your responses.

- Where is the grace?
- Are there ways I can extend more grace into this situation?

Lord Jesus, give me the courage I need to respond to the issues at play in the country I call home, the community I live in, in my own friendships and relationship circles.

Help me to find:

- Where is the grace?
- Are there ways I can extend more grace into this situation?

Lord Jesus, give me the courage I need. Gather my prayers Lord Jesus, and help me see the grace around me.

Amen.

Blessing

Out into the world I go,
Knowing that the unending grace of God is there already,
Knowing I can encounter you, O God, in all walks of life and all spaces and all people.
Help me to notice The Christ in the people I meet this week,
In Jesus name, go in peace, Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 10th June

- Put an empty chair next to you. Sit down in another chair. Imagine Jesus is sitting with you in the empty one. He speaks your name. Tell him about what's on your heart. Listen for what he says to you.

Tuesday 11th June

- Just listen to your breathing for a moment. Notice the inhales and the exhales.
- Each time you inhale, breathe in all that is good, all that is holy, all that is divine. Each time you breathe out, let go of all that is painful, all that is sinful, that brings your shame and guilt.
- Breathe in love. Breathe out hate.
Breathe in God. Breathe out pain.
Breathe in. Breathe out.
Breathe.

Wednesday 12th June

- Place your hand on your shoulders and think of all the burdens you feel you're carrying. Pray that God might help lighten your load.
- Roll your shoulders a few times and sit quietly after you've said Amen.

Thursday 13th June

- God who makes all things new, show me the new thing you are doing in my life, show me how to get involved.

Friday 14th June

- On this day in 1940, the German occupation of Paris (as part of German advances in the first part of World War II) began.
- Today, you could pray for all the people and communities who find themselves occupied by a foreign power. So much of the New Testament is written by and for a community experiencing occupation and invasion, but sadly, invasions are not a thing of the past.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine, of Syria, of Palestine, of Yemen, of Myanmar, and many others who have been oppressed and faced the violence of invasion.

Saturday 15th June

- You might like to turn to Psalm 86. The Psalms have always been source of prayer and response for people seeking to follow God and this one is a prayer of faith, a prayer for help, and a prayer of worship. You might like to simply read the words of the Psalm out loud, and then join in the prayer pointers below. Psalm 86 – [Click for reading.](#)
- Pray for those who are fleeing persecution or domestic violence.
- Pray for women and children trapped in the slave trade.
- Ask forgiveness for your own prejudices.