

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 28C

9th October 2022

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Opening Prayers

Sit down, close your eyes and breathe three deep, slow breaths.

Keeping your eyes closed - pay attention to your breath for a minute or more and in doing so, when you breathe in, imagine you are breathing in the love of God.

When you open your eyes look around you, what do you notice in your room that reminds you of the love of God?

If this is something you can hold, hold it, if it is to be looked at, look at it. As you do so, remember that you are in the presence of God.

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

Around me and within me,
Spirit of God I thank you for your presence here.
I offer each breath in worship to you.

Amen.¹

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

Hymn:

40 STF – Blessed be the name of the Lord - [YouTube](#)

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 – [Click for the reading](#)
Luke 17:11-19 – [Click for the reading](#)

Responding to the reading

How does it feel to be in exile?

This was not a new experience for the people of Israel, exile is a significant part of their history and no matter who invaded, some would be taken off and others would stay under foreign rule. In this instance, Nebuchadnezzar had taken prophets, priests and nobles from Jerusalem to Babylon, and was not the first time Babylon had done this.

In exile there is deep loss, hopelessness, a longing for what could be and a disconnect from that which you know and love. From the people of Israel, through the Roman occupation of the New Testament, to the present day, sadly exile has lived on.

The Luke reading shows us a practical example of exile, with the lepers keeping their distance due to the way that society saw them. Jesus himself discovered that a prophet was not welcome in his own town and eventually he would be shunned all the way to the cross. He knew the pain of exile.

¹ Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

On our doorsteps there are people in exile. Your community may be hosting a family from Ukraine, two doors down from church there may be someone with mental health problems, and a few houses down in the other direction there may be someone who is mocked when they go out because of the way that they look. In this community, God has drawn the exiles to himself, will you offer them a home and loving family, peace and prosperity? For that is our gospel calling – that in our midst the exiles find the fulfilment of their deepest desire.

Some questions for you to consider with your family, friends and neighbours in the week to come:

- Who would you find it uncomfortable to sit next to?
- How will you overcome that discomfort?
- How can the church love those that society would call ‘unlovable’ better than we do?²

Blessing

God of all grace, I rise from this place,
Hoping to seek to live out your plan for my life,
Seeking to know more of you and be known by you,
Seeking to make you known in my friendships and relationships and the world around me.
Amen.³

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week

Monday 10th October

- God of love,
Today I pray for refugees and exiles all around the world,
Those who are living in fear and have fled the place they call home.
Show me how to show love to those in need,
To be a place of sanctuary to all who encounter me,
In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

Tuesday 11th October

- 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?

² Reflection written by Phil Jackson

³ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

Wednesday 12th October

- 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 13th October

- Do you have a favourite poem or song?
- It doesn't have to be explicitly Christian. Consider the ways the good news of God is communicated through the words.
- If it helps, use these words as a prayer today, perhaps humming or repeating them over and over again during the day.

Friday 14th October

- Go litter picking.
- Each bit of litter you pick up is working to bring God's Kingdom in that place.
- As you pick up the litter pray about what it might mean for God's will for this street, this community, this village / town / city to be done.

Saturday 15th October

- What does the good news of the Gospel feel like to you?
- Can you express it as a prayer of thanks in just a sentence or two?
- Once you have chosen or written your sentences, why not find someone to share that prayer with – as a text, or over the phone, or via email, or by chatting to someone today.