

twelvebaskets

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A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Pause for a moment, take a deep breath, take another deep breath, and be still (if possible, hold the stillness for a couple of minutes).

Creator God, I come in a space of worship to give you thanks.
I bring thanks for new days, fresh starts and opportunities,
For this world you have created for us.
Thank you for your love, for your presence in my life.

Forgiving God, I am sorry my life can seem like a whirlwind, worshiping at the notion of busyness, not taking time to stop and appreciate your world, and the relationships that are all around me.
Show me how to love,
Show me how to follow you,
Show me how to be your disciple, this and every day. Amen.

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

Reading: Mark 6:1-13 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

When you read the Gospel of Mark, you meet Jesus beginning his public ministry. From his baptism to facing temptations in the wilderness, and calling his first disciples, these stories lay a foundation of humility and service. Jesus didn't start his work in grandeur but in the simplicity and struggles of human life.

Perhaps you know the feeling of not being ready or equipped for a task or calling. The fear, the uncertainty, the sense of inadequacy... Perhaps you can relate!

But, despite his uncertainty, despite the rejection, Jesus begins his ministry – refusing to be defined by being 'the carpenter' that people knew. He doesn't fit in the box people try to put him in. And why is this? Because divine strength doesn't look like human strength. It's not about overpowering or overwhelming; it's about surrendering and finding God's presence in our most vulnerable moments.

If your weaknesses were suddenly transformed into strengths, how would that change your approach to challenges, relationships, or ministry? Reflect on this, and write down your thoughts, if you'd like.

As you reflect on these scriptures today, may you embrace your full humanity – your strengths and your weaknesses. Our human vulnerabilities aren't just obstacles; they are the very places where God's grace can most profoundly work.

As you journey through this week, consider how you might be able to use your weaknesses for the greater good, and how you might lean more on your strengths – so you spend more time doing what you do best.

And may you go in the grace of God, Amen.

Responding in prayer

God of all grace,
Hear my prayer today. Hear my prayer for freedom and peace.

Lord, you hear the cries that must be made in silence,
Those who live in fear of an abuser,
Those who are persecuted for their faith,
Those who are lonely or isolated.
Oh Lord, hear my prayer today. Hear my prayer for freedom and peace.

Lord, you hear the cries of those living in the midst of conflict
Those trying to protect their children in war-torn nations
Those whose domestic situation is marred by constant tension and fear
Those who work or live in hostile environments.
Oh Lord, hear my prayer today. Hear my prayer for freedom and peace.

Lord, you hear the cries of the hungry and thirsty,
Those families who have to make the choice between heating the house and cooking a hot meal.
Those experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis, and facing drought or crop failure.
Oh Lord, hear my prayer today. Hear my prayer for freedom and peace.

Help me to share a little of your love at the times when it's hard to feel your presence
In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

Responding in music

156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Jesus the Christ is restoring the whole of creation,
Holding all things together.
Today, as you rise from this place, may you hear the invitation to play your part in that restoration.
And may the peace of God go with you, every single step of the way. Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 8th July

- You might like to create a space for some stillness today. Can you find 10 minutes where you simply do nothing, say nothing, and clear your mind of all wandering thoughts. Be present. Be patient. Be here.
And listen for the quiet prompting of the divine, humming all around you.

Tuesday 9th July

- Today is the first of the two semi-finals of the men's football 'Euros' (the second game is tomorrow night).
- Sadly, football has often been caught up in scandals around money, cheating and sickening levels of wealth, but it also plays a troubling role in the increase in domestic violence rates around the UK.
- As people watch the match this evening, may we pray for peace, for justice, and for safety for those who need it most.

Wednesday 10th July

- Today, when it comes to your meal time, take a moment to think about where the food you eat has come from. Who grew it? How did it get to you? Give thanks for all the people and all the little daily miracles that made its arrival possible.

Thursday 11th July

- Today is marked as World Population Day, a day to raise awareness of global population issues. Population trends and fluctuations are monitored by politicians and human geographers all over the world, and major changes in population are often a cause for concern.
- However, today, let us pray for the individual people hidden behind statistics. So many of the people most in need in our world and our country are mostly considered purely as a number on a graph or a PowerPoint slide – but we know each and every one of them to be a beloved child of God.
- Lord God, you know the stories, and the people, better than we know the numbers. Come, by your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Friday 12th July

- Come Holy and blessed God,
Come close to me, come here into my life,
Come and let me learn more of your ways,
Show me how to follow in your steps and take the path you have laid out for me, I pray. Amen.

Saturday 13th July

- On this day in 1985, the Live Aid concerts took place in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, amongst other places.
- Since then, we have learned a lot about international development, and hopefully moved on in terms of how we seek to support those most in need in our world. Today, let us pray for all involved in that work, particularly holding up All We Can, the Methodist relief and development agency, and recognising their pioneering work in shifting the power towards those most in need, enabling communities to put themselves in the driving seat of change.

