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ORDINARY 14C

6th July 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

God is everywhere,
In this space and all spaces,
In this time and all times,
God is waiting to meet you and is ready to welcome you,
Just as it has been for all eternity.

So be still.

Pause

Get ready to notice the spirit working:
Through words on the page,
Through sounds around you,
Through familiar and unfamiliar smells,
Through all that you see when you look up from what you are reading,
Through the touch of your hands as you hold them together to pray.

So be still.

Pause

If you feel able speak aloud the following words:

God of all time and space I notice you here,
I am ready

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

It is time for the commissioning, the sending out. In today's Gospel reading Jesus sends out seventy disciples ahead of him to every place he intends to go.

Jesus sends them out in pairs, not with weapons or wealth, but with vulnerability. "Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals," he says. Go lightly. Travel with trust. Be dependent on the kindness of strangers. This is not how the world typically sends people out. But Jesus is showing us something essential: the way of discipleship isn't about power or control – it's about presence, peace, and relationship.

"The kingdom of God has come near to you."

That's the heart of the message the disciples are to proclaim. And it's not just words—it's embodied in how they travel, how they stay, how they listen, how they receive. For us today, this is a reminder that the Gospel is not something we impose, but something we share – something that's always grounded in respect, humility, and hospitality.

And yet Jesus is clear: not everyone will welcome the message. Some towns will reject the disciples, and that too is part of the journey. We're not called to manipulate or argue people into faith. We're called to live it authentically, and leave the rest to God. Even rejection is met with grace: "Know this," Jesus says, "the kingdom of God has come near."

Discipleship, then, is not about results. It's not about being impressive or persuasive. It's about being faithful. About showing up. About walking lightly, offering peace, and trusting that God is already at work where we go.

In the second part of this passage, the seventy return joyfully. They've seen healing and transformation. But Jesus gently redirects them: "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." The real joy isn't in power – it's in belonging. In knowing we are loved and held by the grace of God, no matter what happens along the road.

So, as you reflect today, ask yourself:

- Where is Jesus sending you right now—not necessarily far away, but maybe into a conversation, a community, or a calling?
- How might you travel more lightly, with more trust and openness?
- Are you offering peace in the places you go?
- And can you rest in the knowledge that your worth is not in what you accomplish, but in who you are: a beloved, grace-filled follower of Christ?

May we, like the seventy, go where we are sent.

May we carry peace, speak hope, and walk with humility.

And may we find our deepest joy not in success, but in grace.

You might like to pray through St Teresa of Avila's words, a reminder that Christ's ministry is held in his followers today:

Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless others now.

Hymn / Song:

410 STF – Lord, your Church on earth is seeking – [YouTube](#) OR

615 STF – Let love be real, in giving and receiving – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Go out in peace and seek the Lord,
Who is calling you into something new this day,
Something holy, something loving, something peaceful.

Go out in peace.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 7th July

- Today is World Chocolate Day, did you know?
- Why not let yourself have a little treat today – nothing over indulgent, just something that brings you joy.
- Give thanks to God for the simple joys in our lives as you do so.

Tuesday 8th July

- Circle me, O God,
Circle me with justice and mercy,
Circle me with your wisdom and strength.
As you sit in the divine council and judge with righteousness,
Judge also in my heart, and make me ready to pray, to worship, to follow you.
Amen.

Wednesday 9th July

- Take 5 small slips of paper.
- Imagine you are trying to explain to a small child what the nature of God is. Write a word or phrase that comes to mind on each of the 5 slips of paper.
- Now look back at your slips next to one another. Are there any other words you would use that you haven't already used here? How might you explain these to a small child?

Thursday 10th July

- Loving God,
I thank you for sharing your love with me:
send me out as your disciple
to a world that needs to know your love, freely given.
- Let your spirit's blessings flow, I pray, Amen.

Friday 11th July

- Today is designated as World Population Day by the UN, which seems a good time for us to pray for all refugees and migrants who are living in places, countries and situations that they would not choose.
- Loving God, help us to be places and people of sanctuary and welcome, ensuring that all people come to see your love shining through us. Amen.

Saturday 12th July

- Think of someone you know that is in need or would benefit from some help.
- Commit to a small act of kindness for them today.
- As you carry this out, give thanks to God for them and pray for them.