

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 20C

17th August 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Look at your feet.

Notice the scraps and marks on your shoes or slippers, or if your feet are bare notice the lines and wrinkles. Wiggle your toes and notice how that feels.

Look at the ground your feet are on. Is it a carpet? Or wood? Laminate or something else?

When you are ready, offer this time of worship to God, and say these words out loud if you feel comfortable doing so:

“Creator God, thank you that my feet are on holy ground. As I sit here I choose to offer the time to you. I long to meet with you on this holy, ordinary ground.”

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 12:49-56 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

Jesus’ words in Luke chapter 12, our reading for today, are not easy ones to hear. He speaks of fire, division, and disruption, far from the peaceful, gentle image we often prefer. “Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!”

It’s a jarring statement, especially for those of us who hold peace, reconciliation, and compassion at the heart of our faith. But Jesus isn’t glorifying conflict, he’s acknowledging a deep truth: that living into the radical love and justice of God’s kingdom often creates tension in a world that resists change.

Discipleship is not always comfortable. When we speak up for the vulnerable, challenge unjust systems, or extend welcome where others want to exclude, we may find ourselves at odds with friends, family, even our own communities. Jesus knows this. He doesn’t promise ease, but he does promise presence, purpose, and truth.

In this passage, Jesus also speaks of reading the signs of the times. He criticises those who can predict the weather but fail to see the deeper spiritual and moral truths unfolding in front of them. It’s a call to pay attention, not just to what’s happening around us, but to what God might be doing through it. Can we discern the Spirit’s movement in the cries for justice, the calls for equality, the longing for healing?

God’s kingdom is not a polite addition to the status quo: it’s a transformative force. And grace, though freely given, often disrupts before it heals. It calls us out of complacency. It sets fire to indifference. It invites us into courageous, costly love.

So today, let this passage challenge and inspire you:

- Where are you being called to speak uncomfortable truth or take a risky stand?
- Are there places in your life where the gospel is creating tension: not because of hatred, but because of love?

- What signs of transformation, justice, or holy disruption do you see in the world around you?

Jesus came not to maintain a fragile peace built on silence or injustice, but to ignite a fire of truth, compassion, and liberation. As disciples, we are called to tend that fire, to carry it forward, even when it costs us something.

May we be brave enough to follow Jesus not only into comfort, but into the places where love changes everything.

Responding in our action

- [The UN's 'Be Seen Be Heard' survey found](#) that two-thirds of young people believe in a better future, with 15-17 year olds being the most optimistic. How can we embody the optimism of youth and play our part in bringing about a better world, no matter how difficult it might seem?
- The Methodist Church is committed to being a 'Justice Seeking Church'. If you have not read the report yet, then take a moment to look it up. What is ours to do in the journey towards justice for all people and for the world? methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/

Hymn/Song

28 STF – Jesus calls us here to meet him - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

May the day ahead be a space of grace for you and those you meet,
May the week ahead be a time when you learn more of what God is doing in your life and in the world around you,

May the months ahead be a time of revival, hope and peace in this and every community,
In Jesus' name I bring my prayers this day,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 18th August

- Using the kettle, oven or microwave.
- Pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet and for whom food and drink are not easy to come by. For those people where starvation is the norm. Consider what you might do to be part of Gods plan to ensure all can flourish.

Tuesday 19th August

- Today is World Humanitarian Day, a day set aside to recognise those who have died working for humanitarian causes around the world.
- Today, pray for all who are working amongst those affected by conflict, disaster and poverty – those striving for justice, safety and peace for everyone.
- Come, by your grace, oh God, and give courage to all working to heal the divisions in our world. Amen.

Wednesday 20th August

- Turning on the lights or doing chores
- Pray for those who keep our church and community buildings safe places for people to enjoy. The finance & property committees. Cleaners, gardeners and window cleaners. All those who visit our precious buildings to maintain them or use them.

Thursday 21st August

- Paying attention to the news on radio, TV or in print.
- Pray for the ways the church and individual people of faith can be involved in mission and social action. Ask what God wants you to do in particular to make the church you are connected to a place of outreach to those in any kind of need here and abroad.

Friday 22nd August

- Making a decision about going out, what to wear or what to eat.
- Pray for all those in leadership in your church and those who make decisions as a part of their role: ministers and stewards, family & pioneer workers, all those who sit on Church Council or important committees. Ask God to help them to seek guidance on how our church can flourish.
- Pray too for those in leadership across the world and the decisions they make. Ask God to help them make choices full of compassion and integrity so no-one gets left behind.

Saturday 23rd August

- On this day in 1948 the World Council of Churches is formed, by 147 churches across 44 countries. The Council continues to exist and to seek to promote unity amongst Christian people of different backgrounds and traditions.
- Holy God, Jesus said that he came that 'we all may be one.' Please help me to work for unity and healing in a world full of divisions, today, across this weekend, and beyond. Amen.