

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 32A

12th November 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

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

Opening song

Behold, behold I make all things new - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Gracious God, on this Remembrance Sunday, your love has called me to pause for a moment and remember, to worship you and your holy name, to pray, to worship and to seek peace.

During this time, Lord, transform and renew me. Awaken my spirit, inspire me to respond to your love by spreading love, peace and justice into the world.

Be Still. *Pause*

This is a time for you to connect to the Divine.

Abba. Spirit. Jesus. Holy One. God.

Their presence is around you now.

In the stillness, notice them.

In the stillness, welcome them.

In the stillness, be open to them.

In this space, worship them.

And today, you have been forgiven and set free by God's unbounding grace.

This is why we worship, and today you step into a river of worship, flowing all around the world, at all times.

Bring your own prayers to God for a moment. *Pause*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

What stories do you treasure about your family history, or wider community? Good and bad. Or what wisdom has been passed on to you?

In today's reading, Matthew records Jesus' advice to 'keep watch' because no one knows when the arrival of God will happen. These topics are ones that are often exciting to youth groups, raised on post-apocalyptic films, books and video games, but adults tend to avoid them (unless they're holding a megaphone on a street corner: "repent, Jesus is coming!"). Why is this; are we scared of death? Perhaps we're afraid that our life hasn't been "good enough". God's faithfulness to us isn't based on how good we are, only on our commitment to God, and God's love for us.

How would you describe God's faithfulness to you in your life?

Is there a story you could tell that would help to show faithfulness to someone else?

By telling these stories, the lesson of God's faithfulness is passed from generation to generation. 'Telling people about God' is one of the commitments of [A Methodist Way of Life](#), a way of thinking about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. What story or wisdom would you like to pass on about God's faithfulness to the next generation?

Can you find someone you trust to share your story with this week? Could you listen to someone else's story?

Responding by singing

463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past – [YouTube](#)

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded – [YouTube](#)

Responding in action

Our actions also matter, just as much as our words. One of the commitments in A Methodist Way of Life is 'We live in a way that draws people to Jesus'. If we live as if we trust God, that behaviour will be seen by other generations as well. It's the indescribable quality that makes someone go 'I want what you've got'. It's not always easy! But it can be one of the most important ways we can make a difference in the lives of people around us.

- What qualities have you admired in the people who have gone before you – perhaps even people in your church?
- What stories would you like your children and grandchildren to tell about you?

And so, by the stories we tell and the way we live our lives, we pass on our own faithfulness to others. We can help the next generation to know that no matter how hard things might get, even when you're not sure if God is listening to you, God is always faithful. God is always present.

How are you going to practice these principles this week? You might like to journal about it or make some notes.

Blessing

Today, I go out, with an open-hearted God at my side,
I leave here, with a loving God in my life,
I face the week ahead, with the Spirit of God waiting to meet with me.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

Monday 13th November

- Chose a piece of music that you find relaxing or calming (you might like to look up something by Karl Jenkins if you have no immediate inspiration!).
- Spend some time just listening to the music, ideally with your eyes closed and your hands still. Switch off from the distractions of modern life, just for a few moments.
- Pray about any of the emotions you notice or feel during this time.

Tuesday 14th November

- God of all grace,
Today I am thankful, for what I have received.
Amongst all the pressures and stresses of life,
I am taking a moment to be grateful, to notice your goodness at work in my life,
To see that the whole universe is sparkling with love and possibility.
- Help me to live from a place of gratitude today,
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Wednesday 15th November

- Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you?
- Does anything make you feel uncomfortable?
- Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.

Thursday 16th November

- 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 in this place to be done.

Friday 17th November

- Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus light might shine there.

Saturday 18th November

- Gracious God, thank you for this week.
As I head into the weekend, show me how to be a channel of your grace, peace, hope and love out into the world.
- Lead me, by your Spirit, O God. Amen.