

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 17C

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A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Take time to read this prayer:

*God of all creation
I worship you.*

You know me - what I need, what I rejoice in, what I'm nervous about.

You see me – as the unique individual you created with all my little habits and characteristics.

You hear me – when I pray aloud or silently.

You meet me – here and now and I am content.

*God of all creation
I worship you.
Amen*

Wonder to yourself if you are really able to say the words. Imagine what it would be like to hear someone else say them for you. Notice how you feel as you read them. Read them again if you'd like or if it might help.

Take time to tell God what you've discovered.

Then when you are ready and if you feel able say them aloud:

*God of all creation
I worship you.*

You know me - what I need, what I rejoice in, what I'm nervous about.

You see me – as the unique individual you created with all my little habits and characteristics.

You hear me – when I pray aloud or silently.

You meet me – here and now and I am content.

*God of all creation
I worship you.
Amen*

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

Readings: Luke 11:1-13 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's gospel reading we turn to Luke chapter 11 and the disciples ask Jesus a simple yet profound question: "Lord, teach us to pray."

In response, Jesus offers not only words – the prayer we now call the Lord’s Prayer – but a posture of trust, persistence, and relationship. This passage is not just about how to pray, but why we pray, and what kind of God we are praying to.

Jesus begins with familiar and beautiful language: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.” This prayer is rooted in intimacy and reverence. It acknowledges both the closeness of God and the grandeur of God’s purposes. It holds personal needs (“Give us each day our daily bread”) alongside communal values (“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive others”). It is simple, but not shallow.

Jesus’ teaching on prayer can be both comforting and challenging. It reminds us that prayer is not about magical formulas or theological perfection, it’s about relationship. It’s about being honest with God, showing up as we are, and trusting that our voices matter.

And then Jesus tells a story of someone knocking at a friend’s door in the middle of the night. At first, the friend resists. But because of the asker’s persistence, the door is opened. It’s an odd little parable, and it might seem like we need to wear God down with our prayers. But that’s not what Jesus is saying. He’s inviting us into a bold kind of praying – a faith that is not passive or polite, but engaged, courageous, and honest. A relationship that is not afraid to say when we are struggling, and to turn to God.

Jesus follows this with a promise: “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Not because prayer always gives us exactly what we want, but because prayer opens us to transformation. It teaches us to keep showing up, to keep seeking, to keep trusting that God is good, and that we are never alone in our asking.

At the heart of this passage is the assurance that God is not reluctant to love us. Jesus compares God to a parent who gives good gifts, and then says, “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” In other words: God’s greatest gift is God’s own presence: grace, strength, wisdom, and love poured into our lives.

So today, reflect on your own experience of prayer:

- Are there things you’ve stopped asking for?
- Are there places where you need courage to keep knocking?
- Are you open to receiving not just answers, but the Spirit itself?

Discipleship is not about having all the right words, it’s about living in relationship with a God who listens, who loves, and who longs to give good gifts. Let this passage remind you: your prayers matter. Your voice is heard. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep trusting in the grace that meets you at the door.

Responding in music

34 STF – O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness OR

20 STF – Be still for the presence of the Lord

64 STF – Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you OR

254 STF – Seek ye first the kingdom of God

390 STF – My God! I know, I feel thee mine OR

763 STF – Our Father in heaven

318 STF – Christ, our King before creation OR

591 STF – Let all mortal flesh keep silence

503 STF – Love divine all loves excelling OR

313 STF – Thine be the glory

Blessing

Until that moment which Charles Wesley's hymn, Love Divine, describes as 'casting our crowns before him, lost in wonder love and praise', until heaven finally calls us home, we have a job to do, a role to play in bringing love and hope into a broken world.

May you go out and do that job this week.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 28th July

- Today marks the beginning of the Summer holidays for lots of schools and groups around the country. Whether that directly impacts you or not, it probably affects the way your community functions – the school runs are off, the parks are busier, the daily routine is different.
- As you notice these changes, you might like to think about some of the ways your own routine could change – are there things you'd like to do more of, or less of, or focus your attention on?
- Pray about your thoughts and reflections.

Tuesday 29th July

- Place your hands flat against a wall and push. Pray prayers of thanks that God has strength enough for our weakness.

Wednesday 30th July

- Draw around the shape of your hand. Write on it the things that you're carrying that feel like burdens. Offer them to God in prayer, remembering that God carries your burdens with you.

Thursday 31st July

- Praying while accessing the world through technology.
- When you are watching the television, listening to the radio, or using the internet take time to note down the things you have learnt about or had revealed to you. Give thanks to God for the precious gift of new ideas, great stories and the people who share them.

Friday 1st August

- Pay attention to your feet. Where have they taken you today? What ground have they stood on in times past?
- Remember the sensations you've experienced. The places and communities you have encountered.
- Try to retrace steps and place before God the situations and people you have met along life's footpath.

Saturday 2nd August

- At the start of this weekend, the first weekend of August, you might like to commit to God all who are working irregular hours over this weekend to enable our society to function. The shift workers, the late night bus and taxi drivers, the hospital staff, the helpline managers.