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ORDINARY 27C

5th October 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Loving God,
As I come to you this day,
Help me to notice all the gifts of this day.
Give me the faith to know that I am not alone and that your love surrounds me, and all people, today and always.

Come into this time, into this space, O God,
By your Spirit,
And show me how to be ready to notice you,
To find you in the small, everyday things of this day, this week,
And to come to see what is mine to do in the building of a better, brighter world,
In your name

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 17:5-10 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's gospel reading from Luke, the disciples ask Jesus something we might all relate to: "Increase our faith!" It's an honest, vulnerable request. They've seen the challenges of following Jesus, the forgiveness he asks them to offer to others, the risks he takes, the radical love he embodies, and they realise that it's not easy. So, they ask for more faith, as though faith were a quantity to be measured and topped up.

Jesus replies with a curious image: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." In other words, it's not the amount of faith that matters, but the trust and willingness to act, even when faith feels small.

Then Jesus shifts into a second, slightly puzzling story about a servant doing their job and not expecting a reward or special praise. At first, it might sound harsh. But Jesus isn't trying to devalue the disciples' work. Instead, he's reframing what faithfulness really looks like.

In a world that often celebrates dramatic success or visible results, Jesus honours quiet, consistent commitment. He affirms the value of doing what's needed: not for applause, not for recognition, but because it's the right thing to do. In this vision, discipleship isn't about flashy miracles or heroic gestures. It's about showing up, day after day, with humility and love.

For us, this passage offers both a challenge and a reassurance. It reminds us that faith isn't always grand or certain. It can be as small as a mustard seed: fragile, uncertain, but still alive. And it reminds us that faithful discipleship is often found not in big statements, but in ordinary acts of care, justice, forgiveness, and service.

Jesus is saying: You don't need to be extraordinary. You just need to be faithful with what you have, right where you are.

So today, reflect on this:

- Where am I being invited to act on a small seed of faith?
- What quiet, steady commitments in my life are actually sacred?
- Am I waiting for my faith to "feel big enough" before I step forward?

God isn't measuring our faith with a scale. There isn't a measuring unit for faith – you can't weigh it, or capture it, or lengthen it, or measure its volume. God is looking for trust, willingness, and a heart open to grace. A mustard-seed faith can move the world, because it's not about what we achieve, but what God can do through us when we dare to take the next small step.

May we be faithful in the little things, courageous in the quiet things, and open to the surprising ways God works through ordinary lives.

Hymn / Song:

255 STF – The Kingdom of God is justice and joy – [YouTube](#)

Responding in prayer

Gracious God,
you are present even in the strange places:
in the places of exile,
in the silence of lament,
and in the ache of memory.
I come to you now, not with easy songs,
but with honest cries and longings.

Loving God, I pray for your Church
in all its scattered expressions –
for communities who gather in joy,
and for those who gather in grief.
Healing God, I pray for those who are exiled today:
for refugees and migrants,
for those who are displaced by war, by climate, by injustice.
For those far from home, far from safety, or far from belonging.
Surround them with your protection and with people who care.
Let your presence go with them, and may your Church be a place of welcome.
Comforting God, I pray for all who are grieving:
those who sit by the rivers and weep.
For the bereaved, the anxious, the forgotten,

and for those who carry pain that is hidden from view.
Help me not to silence lament, but to honour it.
To hold space for sorrow, knowing that you are the God who weeps with all people.
May tears be received as prayers,
Here and all around the world.

In the name of Christ,
who knew exile, lament, and resurrection,
I pray. Amen.

Blessing

My God, I am yours,
And I seek to respond to your call today,
To go to those who need to hear your good news,
Who need to receive your peace.
Show me, show all those around me, how to follow in your way, I pray,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 6th October

- Say the Lord's Prayer to yourself, in whatever language or version is most meaningful to you. Which part resonates with you today?

Tuesday 7th October

- Create two interlocking circles by touching index finger to thumb on both hands and connecting the loops. Let this small gesture remind you of the invisible ties that connect all of us as siblings in Christ, calling us to look out for each other.

Wednesday 8th October

- What was the last song or piece of music you listened to? Play it if you can, or simply bring it to mind and play/sing through it in your head. What could God be saying to you through this piece of music?

Thursday 9th October

- If you have Blu Tack, Plasticine or something similar, take a small piece and mould it with your fingers. Make it into any shape you like - something round, long and thin, or even a cube shape. How is God moulding you to be the best version of yourself?

Friday 10th October

- Today is World Homelessness Day, and as we head into the winter months ahead, we become aware of those facing homelessness at this time – sleeping rough, living in temporary or unsuitable accommodation, or in constant fear of eviction.
- Today, you may wish to pray for all those affected by the housing emergency, and charities like Shelter who are working to tackle the root causes of homelessness.

Saturday 11th October

- In the stillness, in the quiet that this day might bring, take a moment to simply meditate – to breathe, to notice your own body, and to listen.
- In the stillness, try to calm your own thoughts and anxiety, try to listen to yourself – what do you need?
- In the stillness, is God prompting you?