

# twelvebaskets

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## **EPIPHANY 4C**

2nd February 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

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

## Opening Prayers

Here I am, God of all grace,  
Here to listen to, learn from and be inspired by your love, your peace, your hope.  
Here I am, standing at the beginning of February,  
in the quiet and the stillness, holding onto my faith in you.  
Will you plant a seed of love in my heart, and plant me where I am meant to be, O God?

Cultivator God, as I stand at the beginning of February, with winter a few paces behind us  
and spring leading the way ahead,  
Look upon me as a gardener surveys the land ready to prepare the ground:  
with love, care and a promise of what is to come.

Come, Lord God, that I may know you closer than my own breath.

Amen.

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

**Readings:** Luke 4:21-30 – [Click for reading](#)

### Hymn:

STF 665 – Make us your prophets, Lord - [YouTube](#)

## Responding to the readings

This is one of the most iconic Gospel passages in the New Testament – a significant moment at the start of Jesus' earthly ministry, where Jesus gives what is sometimes referred to as the 'Nazareth Manifesto'.

We find Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth, proclaiming the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy in his own ministry. In this passage we find not only the initial marvel at Jesus' gracious words but also the swift turn to scepticism and rejection by his own townspeople. It offers us an opportunity for reflection on the themes of acceptance, the scope of grace, and the nature of true discipleship.

Jesus begins with a declaration that scripture has been fulfilled in their hearing, directly linking his presence and work with the prophetic traditions of Israel. This moment of revelation is a gift of grace, an invitation for the listeners to see God's plan unfolding before them.

Why not use this as a chance to reflect on your own experiences of encountering God's word. How do you react when familiar truths suddenly become intensely personal and relevant? Are there passages that have come alive to you in your journey, profoundly shaping your understanding of who Jesus is and what he has called you to do?

Jesus goes on to talk about the wideness of God's mercy, citing examples from the Hebrew Scriptures where God's prophets ministered to non-Israelites. This inclusivity challenges the

provincial and exclusive expectations amongst his listeners, and perhaps amongst us, today. As followers of Christ we are called to embrace and extend God's grace to all, not just to those who are like us or who share our views. Reflect on how you have experienced God's grace as inclusive and transformative. How does this understanding of grace challenge you to act and think differently about who belongs in the kingdom of God?

Jesus' words provoke not just disbelief but also hostility, leading to an attempt to drive him out of town. This rejection by his own community underscores a difficult truth about discipleship: following Jesus may lead to misunderstanding, isolation, or even hostility from those who cannot accept the full implications of the Gospel. Consider times when you have felt resistance or rejection because of your commitment to gospel values. What does it mean for you to stand firm in your faith and continue proclaiming truth, even when it is not welcomed?

Despite the hostility He faces, Jesus walks through the midst of His accusers, unharmed and resolute. His example is a powerful testament to the steadfastness we are called to embody as His followers. The grace that empowers and sustains Jesus is the same grace available to us today as we navigate the complexities of living out our faith in a sometimes hostile world. Reflect on how you rely on God's grace in moments of difficulty or opposition. How does the assurance of divine presence and love give you courage to continue your journey of discipleship?

As you meditate on this passage from Luke 4, consider how the themes of fulfilment, inclusivity, rejection, and resilience under God's grace can inspire and challenge you in your walk of discipleship this week.

### **Hymn:**

707 STF –Make me a channel of your peace - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

And so I rise from this moment and I go,  
I go out in peace – seeking the opportunities to love.  
I go out in joy to be some who brings hope.  
I seek to travel well in the world, and be transformed by the Spirit within and all around me.  
Amen.

---

## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

- Look out for early signs of spring today, and in the week ahead. Where can you see days getting longer, buds beginning to appear, new life starting to form?

## **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

- Transform an ordinary walk in your neighbourhood, park, or even through your home into a prayer walk. As you walk, pray for your neighbours, the world, or different areas of your life. For example, in your kitchen, you might pray for those without food; in your living room, for family and friends.

## **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

- Today, why not use your senses to guide your prayer.
  - o Touch: Hold a meaningful object, like a cross, stone, or candle, as you pray.
  - o Sight: Light a candle and focus on its flame, representing God's presence.
  - o Sound: Play calming worship music or sit in silence to focus on listening to God.
  - o Smell: Use essential oils or incense to create a soothing prayer atmosphere.
- This practice can help you connect deeply and physically to your prayers.

## **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

- Listen to this hymn, played and sung by Matt Beckingham (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkBAxZw5NxU>) or look up and read the words to Singing the Faith 693 – Let Love Be Real.
- As you hear or read the words, think about how they might affect your decisions today and in the weeks ahead.
- Pray about your responses, and ask God for the courage to love.

## **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

- Combine art and prayer by expressing your thoughts and feelings creatively. Use paints, markers, or collages to illustrate what you'd like to pray about today. Perhaps you might like to colour in a favourite verse from scripture?
- Whilst you are being creative, notice what comes into your mind. How is God speaking to you?

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

- Create a "Prayer Jar" or "Prayer Box" where you write prayer requests or things you're thankful for on slips of paper. Each day, pull out one slip and focus your prayer on that specific need or blessing. As the jar fills, you'll have a tangible reminder of God's faithfulness.