

# twelvebaskets

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## LENT 2C

16th March 2025

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 Prayers

God of all grace, let me be still,  
And bring myself into this space of worship and stillness.

*[Quiet].*

God is everywhere  
In this space and all spaces  
In this time and all times.  
God is waiting to meet you and is ready to welcome you  
Just as it has been for all eternity  
So be still.

*[Quiet].*

Get ready to notice the spirit working  
Through words on the page  
Through sounds around you  
Through familiar and unfamiliar smells  
Through all that you see when you look up from what you are reading  
Through the touch of your hands as you hold them together to pray  
So be still.

*[Quiet].*

If you feel able speak aloud the following words:  
God of all time and space I notice you here. I am ready. Amen  
**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version with which you are familiar.**

**Reading:** Luke 13:31-35 - [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

During Lent and up to Easter, you may wish to make use of the Soul Food resources from the Methodist Church in your personal devotions, including a Bible Study video (around 12 mins long), which acts as a conversation about today's Bible reading.

Find the resources here: [methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/](http://methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/)

In this passage from Luke 13, we find Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, receiving a warning from some Pharisees about Herod's intent to kill him. Jesus' response reveals his commitment to his mission and his deep lament over Jerusalem.

Jesus' response to the threat from Herod is both bold and telling: 'go tell that fox, "Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.'" Here, Jesus demonstrates profound courage and a steadfast commitment to God's mission in and through him, regardless of the danger it poses. This reflects a critical aspect of discipleship: the call to carry out our God-given missions without fear, trusting in God's timing and protection.

Reflect on your own life and the missions you feel called to by God. Are there 'Herods' or fears in your life that threaten to derail you from your path? How can you embody the same courage that Jesus shows, relying on God's grace to continue your work despite challenges or threats?

Even as Jesus faces threats, his focus remains on healing and liberating. This is God's grace at work, which empowers us to continue our work in the world, even when the end seems distant and dangers loom large. God's grace not only protects but propels us forward, giving us the strength and courage to 'finish our course'.

Jesus' lament over Jerusalem, 'How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!' exposes a heart full of compassion and sorrow. His metaphor of a hen protecting her brood illustrates a deep, nurturing love, one that desires safety and flourishing for all, even when that love is rejected.

In your journey of discipleship, how do you respond to rejection, whether from individuals, communities, or even within yourself? How can Jesus' compassionate response inform your actions and attitudes towards those who might not understand or accept your mission? And how do you feel about the places you call home at the moment? Do you lament for them, and wish to gather them under your wings? Pray about what might be 'yours to do' in the midst of the community you call home.

This passage challenges us to reflect on our own discipleship in terms of courage, grace, and compassion. It calls us to ask ourselves:

- How am I responding to God's call despite fear or opposition?
- Where do I need God's grace to continue my work, and how can I be a vessel of that grace to others?
- How can I extend compassion even when faced with rejection or hostility?

As you meditate on these themes, let them inspire you to live out your discipleship with boldness, embraced by God's grace, and motivated by a love that seeks to gather, protect, and nurture. May you find the strength to continue your work, the grace to endure, and the compassion to love, even in the face of difficulty and opposition.

### **Responding in prayer**

Homeless Jesus, you came from heaven to earth for our salvation; forgive me when I cling too tightly to my physical life and luxury. Give me, I pray, your vision of heaven here on earth.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Despised Jesus, you knew what it was to be unjustly accused and reviled; I pray for all who are treated as outsiders, persecuted for their faith, colour or identity.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Peace-making Jesus, you spoke words of peace to those in conflict and those bearing grudges; I pray for all who are working for peace and reconciliation around the world.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Gracious Jesus, you demonstrated the courage to embrace strangers; I pray for all who feel they don't belong anywhere, or who have been rejected by family or community.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lamenting Jesus, you wept over those who couldn't see your identity and your glory; I pray for all who are blinded by religious intolerance or disbelief and who reject you still.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Healing Jesus, you stretched out in love to any in need, regardless of their background; I pray for all in need of your touch of healing today.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Loving Jesus, you called your followers to live by love; I pray for your church around the world today, that we may all be renewed and re-energised in love.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Amen.

### **Responding in music**

440 STF – Amazing grace – how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! - [YouTube](#)

357 STF – Jesus – the name high over all - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

Go out in peace, and see the world made anew.

Go out to meet with a community, a family, a society crying out for some love, looking to encounter the living God.

Go out to discover God's spirit is at work throughout our world, and be transformed by your encounter with that same Spirit.

Go, by the grace of God.

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

- Look around you. Let your eyes settle on an item. Think about all the people who have helped with its production. Give thanks for them, for their work, and for the materials that made it.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

- Scrunch your hands up in a tight ball. Think about all the ways your hands have worked hard in your lifetime. Give thanks for all you've been able to accomplish. Release your hands, and as you relax them, allow yourself a moment of rest. Allow the sensation of rest to seep into every part of your body. Give thanks for all the ways rest feeds your soul.

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

- Take a look at the Soul Food resources from the Methodist Church - sign up to get the daily emails or watch one of the videos. How does this idea of Soul Food speak to you this Lenten season?

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

- Look up at the sky. What can you see there? The sun perhaps, or maybe the moon. Think of the rhythms of the day, the planet turning, the universe in perfect cadence. Offer to God all the ways your life is out of rhythm, and ask for God's help with making the changes you need. You are God's beloved, the God who made the universe, made you, too. Let God's love and grace transform you.

### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

- What will you be doing a week from today? Will you be working or resting or something in between? Picture yourself, in the same way that God sees you, with love and compassion. Pray for yourself and the week ahead.

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

- God of the sabbath, you rested even though you are God, even though you don't need rest. You lead us into sacred slowness, by still waters, your goodness revives our souls. We hold before you people we know who are experiencing stress, worry, or very busy lives. God of the sabbath, come into their lives. Amen.