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ORDINARY 25C

21st September 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Loving God,
Lord Jesus Christ,
Holy Spirit,
Three-in-one-God,
Today I turn aside for a little while from the other demands on my time and my life,
Today I accept your open invitation, and come into your presence.
Today, I lay down my baggage before you, O Lord of life.

Pause

You know my story, you know the baggage I carry this day,
Without me even having to unpack it again.
You know the pain I have felt,
The pain I have caused, intentionally or otherwise,
The difficult conversations,
The flashbacks,
The fears,
The regrets,
My deepest secrets,
And my most precious held hopes – the ones I dare not even speak aloud.

This day, I come to you in prayer and give you thanks, for you offer to share the load,
In the peace of this moment, may I hear your words of acceptance and forgiveness, feel
your comforting arms around me, and simply know you are near.

[Pause]

Lord Jesus Christ, I love you,
Hear my prayer,

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 16:1-13 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

At first glance, the parable in today's reading from Luke 16 – the story of the dishonest manager – is one of the most confusing Jesus ever tells. A manager is caught mishandling his employer's money. Facing the sack, he acts fast: he reduces the debts of his master's clients, hoping to win their favour. Surprisingly, the master commends him: not for dishonesty, but for his shrewdness.

And then Jesus says: "Whoever is faithful in a very small way is faithful also in much... You cannot serve God and wealth."

What are we supposed to do with this? It can seem like Jesus is encouraging clever manipulation, but that's not the point. The parable challenges us to think deeply about how we use what we have, and what we truly serve.

Jesus isn't praising dishonesty; he's pointing out that even those who don't follow God can be clever, decisive, and intentional when it comes to protecting their interests. What if we, as people of faith, brought that same creativity, urgency, and intentionality to serving God's purposes, not just protecting our own?

We all have "wealth" in some form: money, yes, but also time, influence, privilege, energy, relationships. The question is: what are we doing with it? Are we using what we hold to build more compassion, justice, and generosity in the world? Or are we holding on tightly, building security for ourselves at the expense of others?

This passage invites us to think of discipleship not only as a spiritual journey, but as a deeply practical one. Jesus is saying that what we do with our resources – how we handle power, money, and trust – is just as much a part of our faith as prayer or worship.

There's also grace here. Notice that the manager doesn't give up when he's caught: he adapts, quickly and cleverly. Maybe we, too, are being encouraged to adapt: not to give up when systems are unjust or when we've made mistakes, but to make different, better choices going forward. To be brave enough to live our values, even when it's hard or costly.

So today, ask yourself:

- What "wealth" (in any form) do I hold, and how am I using it?
- What might it look like to serve God with my time, money, and energy?
- Are there ways I could be more intentional, courageous, or creative in living out my values?

Jesus ends with a challenge: "You cannot serve God and wealth." That's not a threat, it's an invitation to freedom. To step away from fear, greed, and anxiety, and step into a life of trust, generosity, and meaning.

May we be wise stewards, faithful disciples, and bold builders of God's kingdom, right here, with what we have today.

Hymn:

713 STF – Show me how to stand for justice – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Lord you have called me, and I am seeking to follow you.

Lord you have blessed me, and I am learning to bless others.

Lord you have loved me, and love me still. Show me how to share that love with others, this week, I pray,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 22nd September

- Throughout history, and still today, Biblical scholars are unearthing and researching new and interesting approaches to these ancient texts that have formed and shaped Christianity – and many other religions too!
- Today, let us pray for all who carry out study in the name of religion – seeking to share justice, to speak truth, to challenge misunderstanding. May we learn from them, and from our own experience of the divine – this and every day.

Tuesday 23rd September

- Place some sticky dots around your home or living space. Maybe in places you go often or, if you choose, only occasionally. Each time you see one let them remind you of the prayers you offer and the God you love.
- e.g. Pop one on a light switch to be reminded Jesus is the light of the world and ask yourself how you will be a light for others.
- Or: pop one by the tap to be reminded that Jesus is the water of life and ask yourself what you will do to help those who thirst for righteousness
- Be bold and enable your prayer life to be part of your everyday life

Wednesday 24th September

- Light a candle and watch the flame dance around for a while. Sometimes, we feel like we can do so little to make changes in this chaotic world. Let this candle remind you that we all have our part to play; our 'little light' shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Thursday 25th September

- Find a peaceful spot to sit down, even if you feel you're in the midst of noise and chaos. Ground yourself in the moment by mentally noting:
 - o 5 things you can see
 - o 4 things you can hear
 - o 3 things you can touch
 - o 2 things you can smell
 - o 1 thing you can taste
- Prayer a prayer of thanks for what you have noticed.

Friday 26th September

- On this day in 1905, Albert Einstein published the papers that introduced his special theory of relativity, which has played a vital part in scientific thinking ever since. Some people have suggested that, if Einstein had not been able to think outside the box and come up with this remarkable concept, all the developments in science over the last 120 years still would not have brought us to his conclusions – he was well ahead of his time!
- Today, in your prayers, you might like to focus on prayers of gratitude and courage for all who dare to think outside the box, to reimagine, to pioneer, to invent – perhaps especially within a church context.

Saturday 27th September

- Some traditions mark today as the feast day of St Vincent de Paul, a French Catholic priest in the seventeenth century, who dedicated his life to serving those affected by poverty.
- Today, let us pray for all who work to tackle poverty, here in our own country and around the world. May we do what we can to join in and strive for justice and equity in our societies and our world.