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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY C

2nd November 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Take a moment to be peaceful.

If you are able, you may like to plant your feet on the floor and concentrate on your body being still (if this is hard then do just sit quietly and comfortably).

Notice how you feel and what you are thinking about and let those things float away giving thanks for each even if they are difficult feelings or thoughts.

When you are ready:

Raise your hands open before you and give thanks for the moment you are in.

Pause

Place your open hands on your lap and consider all that's happened this week and what you might want to lay down before God asking for help or offering thanks.

Pause

Lift one hand high in the air and think about what you will offer of yourself as you worship today.

Pause

Lower your hands and pick up your service sheet.

If you feel able offer the following prayer:

Loving God, I am here in this moment to worship you.

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 6:20-31 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In Luke's gospel – and the short passage that has been our focus today – Jesus offers what's often called the "Sermon on the Plain". This is a powerful and provocative vision of God's kingdom.

It begins with a series of blessings and woes that flip the world's values on their head: "Blessed are you who are poor... Blessed are you who hunger... Blessed are you who weep..." And then: "Woe to you who are rich... who are full... who are laughing now."

It's an uncomfortable message, especially for those of us who are used to relative comfort or privilege. But Jesus isn't condemning wealth or joy outright; he's challenging the assumption that success, abundance, and popularity are signs of divine favour. He's reminding us that God's heart is always turned toward the vulnerable, the struggling, the

overlooked. The kingdom of God doesn't mirror the hierarchies of the world. It reverses them.

Then Jesus pushes further: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." And again: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This is not soft, sentimental advice. It's radical, difficult, and deeply countercultural. It's a call to respond to violence with compassion, to meet cruelty with kindness, to live in a way that breaks cycles of harm, not by ignoring injustice, but by refusing to mirror it.

This passage holds both challenge and hope. It reminds us that following Jesus means more than advocating for justice from a distance, it means embodying it in how we live, love, and relate to others, even when it's hard. It means choosing grace over retaliation. Generosity over fear. Solidarity over self-protection. It means living in a way that trusts that God's kingdom is not defined by domination or wealth, but by love in action.

So today, ask yourself:

- Where is Jesus calling me to stand alongside those who are overlooked, excluded, or in pain?
- How am I being invited to love, even when it's costly or inconvenient?
- What assumptions do I need to unlearn in order to live more fully into the upside-down kingdom of God?

The Sermon on the Plain doesn't offer easy answers, but it offers a path. A path of discipleship marked not by status or power, but by mercy, humility, and hope. May we have the courage to walk that path and the grace to walk it with joy.

Hymn / Song:

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

Blessing

God of all grace,
Today and this week,
May your presence be known to me,
Your love close to me,
Your hope in my heart,
Your grace in my conversations.

I go, to find you, already ahead of me, in this community and place I call home,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 3rd November

- The German theologian Meister Eckhart once said, 'if the only prayer you ever say in your life is "thank you", that will be enough'.
- Today, throughout the day (or whatever is left of the day), simply look for opportunities to pray the words 'thank you' to God.
- Thank you for the sunrise. Thank you for that I have enough food for the day. Thank you for my health, such as it is. Thank you for that lovely conversation with a friend. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen.

Tuesday 4th November

- Gracious God, I know you have plans for me- plans for me to be a part of your kingdom and an agent of love in the world.
- Today, show me how to respond to the invitations I might receive. Help me to be open to the opportunities to share your love.
- In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Wednesday 5th November

- It's Bonfire Night today in the UK, and perhaps you are hearing fireworks going off as you read this, or making plans to attend or host a party of some sort over the weekend.
- As you listen to or see a firework, think about the explosive nature of these little bits of cardboard and gunpowder, which can be seen for miles around. Perhaps they are like your faith – it may seem small and relatively insignificant, but it can light up the sky and be a source of encouragement and wonder for others.
- Pray about how you can be a firework for others this weekend, and in the weeks ahead.

Thursday 6th November

- God of all blessings,
Thank you for the gift of food to eat,
For the flavours and the smells,
The energy and enjoyment I can get from the food I eat.
- I'm sorry for all the times I've taken for granted the food on my plate, the ingredients in my fridge, the ready meals in my freezer.
And for all the other blessings I have received that I often overlook or forget to be thankful for.
Thank you Lord, for you are good to me.
Amen.

Friday 7th November

- Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else.
- Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God.
- What does this mean to you?

Saturday 8th November

- On this day in 2008, Barack Obama became the President of the USA.
- Today we pray for all world leaders, whether we agree with their politics or not. We pray for grace, for wisdom, for the courage to lead and to discern the best way forward for our planet and the people who live in it.
- God of all grace, show us how we can support those most in need in our world, through our political systems and by engaging in democracy. Amen.