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## **ORDINARY 15B**

11th July 2021

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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## Call to worship

We gather this day, to worship the living God.  
We gather together with the body of Christ, around the world and across history  
We gather to pray, to sing, to reflect and to be transformed,  
By your Spirit, Lord God.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**Hymn: 277 STF – My Song is Love Unknown - [YouTube](#)**

## Opening Prayers

Let us just be quiet for a moment.

*[Pause]*

Think of a place that you love to be in, a place that brings you peace – perhaps it reminds you of God or reveals something of God's nature to us. It might be by the sea, in your garden, at home a favourite holiday spot, a mountain or a skyscraper. Perhaps for many of us it will be connected to a beautiful landscape or a special view.

Let us just pause for a moment, imagining yourself into that place. What can you see? How do you feel?

Firstly, let us pause and give thanks.

Lord of our special places, we give thanks for these special places and all that they mean to us. We give thanks for the memories this place connects us with, and the special people associated with this place, perhaps faces, names and stories we remember when we come here.

Living God, we give you thanks for your creation and all the joy and wonder it brings us. We pause to give you thanks.

*[Quiet]*

Secondly, still imagining ourselves in this special place, we pause to say sorry, sorry to you Lord God.

As we look out on our special places, we feel a sense of connection to all the other special places people are imagining in this room and all the other precious parts of your creation, no matter how popular or appreciated. We say sorry.

We say sorry for the damage we have done to these places, and the ways we have been part of systems that have damaged your world, or the people who live there. We are sorry for the pollution, destruction and pain that we inflict on each other, and on your world.

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

For the sake of these special places, the people of your world, and all that we love we ask that you would move, inspire and transform us. Accept us as we are, and use us for your work to create a better, safer, fairer world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

### **Let us now say the Lord's prayer**

**Readings:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 – [Click for reading](#)

Psalm 24 – [Click for reading](#)

Ephesians 1:3-14 – [Click for reading](#)

Mark 6:14-29 – [Click for reading](#)

### **Reflections on the reading**

*[This week's reflection is written by Jill Baker, the Chair of the Methodist Council and a former Vice President. You can read the full reflection by subscribing to The Vine resources – email [thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk](mailto:thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk) to find out if your circuit is subscribed.]*

Three times in today's psalm, the little Hebrew word 'selah' is used. It means 'pause' and is inserted there to remind those reading, chanting or singing the psalm to do just that, to pause and reflect on the grace of God of which the psalmist is singing... we do well to pause too and ask what God is saying to us through these – admittedly rather challenging – passages...

Let us hold one of those 'selah' moments now.

*[Pause]*

As we turn towards Christ again, setting our hope on him, not on ourselves, we are given the ability to 'live for the praise of his glory', as David sought to do in his dancing, as John the Baptist had done in his preaching, as the disciples were learning to do in their mission, as Jesus demonstrates all the time. There may be a cost; there was for David, there was for John, there was for the disciples, there was for Jesus, but the end result is that wonderful circle of blessing with which the prayer for the Ephesians begins – blessed be God...who has blessed us...with every spiritual blessing.

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<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by The Joint Public Issues Team.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### **Prayers of intercession**

God of all grace, we come to you today to pray for the world you made.

Gracious Jesus, we come to you today to pray for the world you loved and in which you lived.

Holy Spirit of grace, we come to you today and ask your help as we offer our prayers for others.

We pray for the world in which evil so often seems to have the upper hand;

We hold in your love those who are caught up in human trafficking... those who are exploited... those who are abused... those who are victims of violence...

We pray too for those who perpetrate such violence, oppression and exploitation and for all who work for justice, peace and dignity for all people...

God of all grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, seeking a path of goodness and holiness which glorifies you;

We hold in your love all who lead the church in this and every land... those who preach... those who serve... those who speak truth to power... those who risk their own lives for the sake of others...

We pray too for churches which are divided, groups which feel marginalised or ignored, situations where individuals have been isolated.

God of all grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community, with its glimpses of glory and moments of inhumanity;

We hold in your love all in hospital, or suffering at home and those who care for them... we hold in your love our schools, their pupils, staff and governors... we hold in your love our police force and all who work for peace... we pray for those who are in prison and all involved in support for those who struggle...

God of all grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our families, our church family, our friends and our neighbours;

We hold in your love those who are most precious to us, each of us pausing to picture (or speak the names) of those for whom we pray today... send your grace and blessing we pray on all those known to us who are in particular need at this time... those who are sick, those who are broken-hearted, those who are grieving, those who are lost and confused...

God of all grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, in our own journey of laughter and lament, wholeness and brokenness;

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<sup>3</sup> Reflection written by Jill Baker

We offer ourselves afresh to receive your grace... praying that we may be given the resources we need to face this day, the next day and all the coming days with grace and courage. We offer ourselves to be moulded by your Holy Spirit that we may live to the praise of your glory – now and forever.  
God of all grace, **hear our prayer**.

Thanks be to God. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

**Hymn:350 STF - I Cannot Tell - [YouTube](#)**

### **Blessing**

Go out from this place, inspired and uplifted to bring about change in the world. Go out into the world, amongst all the disheartening and disappointing moments of life, and know that the God of love goes with you, before you, alongside you and within you.

Go to be a people of love, grace and peace.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Jill Baker

<sup>5</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker