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ORDINARY 16B

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A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

The Spirit of God says 'come'.

Jesus Christ, the bride of the church, says 'come'.

Let anyone who hears this say 'come'.

Let anyone who is thirsty, thirsty for the water of life, come.

Come, all are welcome,

The Spirit of God is in this place. Come.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 156 STF – From the breaking of the dawn – [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Risen Saviour, Jesus our Lord,

We love you and we are so grateful that you love us so much that you were prepared to give up everything and live on earth, showing us how to live, and then to die, all so that we might know what it means to become children of God.

Pour your Holy Spirit into our lives that we may grow more like you.

For your life which informs our living, for your compassion which changes our hearts, for your clear speaking which contradicts our vague generalities, for your disturbing presence, your innocent suffering, your fearless dying and then rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise and worship you.

As we worship, help us to know your presence with us, open our minds and hearts we pray.

Generous God, whose love is free to all,

We often struggle to be the people that you want us to be, loving one another as brothers and sisters in your world-wide family.

Shape our lives into an expression of faith.

Protect us from cultural forces which try to conform us to an image other than yours. Show us the harm we do when we water down the good news of your love, when we become a mirror reflecting the world's brokenness and hate, rather than a window through which your wholeness and love can shine.

Lord, we fail you in some many ways, we are so sorry...

[Pause].

'I am making all things new', says the Lord.

This is Christ's gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen.²

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Diane Robinson

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a - [Click for Reading](#)

Ephesians 2:11-22 - [Click for Reading](#)

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 - [Click for Reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... Including you."
Anne Lamott

Can we start by just taking a few moments to think back over your past week... think about the times you were happy... (*pause*), the times you were stressed... (*pause*), but specifically can you remember those times when you deliberately put some time aside for YOU... to rest... not when you were sleeping – that doesn't count! – but instead when you actually took time to rest and take some genuine "time out".

In today's reflection, we are simply going to take a space. A space away from words, from more learning, reflection, input, teaching, singing, metaphors and descriptions. Today, there is some space. Today is for you.

Let's be still for a moment. Perhaps you are being called to stillness, to time out, to rest, this day and in the week ahead.

Let us hold the stillness, and make space for God.

[Pause – you may like to play some soft music, or just hold the silence.]

Come Lord Jesus, fill our hearts, turn us away from a world where we are judged by what we produce, and connect us to the deep base-note of your Spirit, all around us. This is our prayer, in Jesus name.

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Today, instead of using lots of words for our prayers of intercession, our prayers for the world, we are going to hold a couple of times of quiet, and I simply invite you to bring your own prayers into those spaces.

Firstly, I invite you to spend a moment praying for those close to you: people in your family, your friends, perhaps members of this church, who are in your thoughts. It might be the people you are worried about, or just someone who you know needs to feel God's presence today.

In the stillness, hold that person, and their situation, in the light of God's love.

[Pause for a minute or two. You might like to play some quiet music during the stillness].

Come Lord God. Answer our prayers, in Jesus' name.

And now, in this space, I invite you to bring a situation or person further afield. Perhaps a story from the news, or a situation or story that has found its way to you. It is probably about people or a person you will never meet, but in this moment, you want to hold those people in prayer. In the stillness, we pray for a better world.

[Pause for a minute or two. You might like to play some quiet music during the stillness].

Come Lord God. You know the names, the faces, the situations that we've held in our hearts and minds over these past few minutes.

Answer our prayers, in Jesus name.
Amen.³

Hymn: 547 STF – Beyond these walls of worship – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

God of grace, Spirit of hope, Christ who transforms us – send us out with your courage, your love, your peace to bring into a community and a world in need.

Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker