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ORDINARY 33C

16th November 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

If you have a candle, find it and something to light it with. Put it somewhere you can see it. If you do not have a candle, use a lamp.

As you light the candle, or light the lamp, say these words:

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.”

Sit in silence and notice the light and the shadows in the room. Think about how the nights are getting longer at this time of year, and recognise the shift in seasons around you.

When you are ready, offer this time of worship to God, and if you feel comfortable to do so, say these words out loud:

“Jesus, you are the light of the world, the light of my life, I offer this time to you in worship and prayer and praise.

Amen”

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

Reading: Luke 21:5-19 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In this passage, Jesus responds to some of his disciples who are admiring the beauty of the temple, its grandeur, its stones, its sacred importance. But Jesus doesn’t share their awe. Instead, he says something unsettling: “The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another.”

It’s a dramatic statement. And the conversation that follows is no less intense. Jesus speaks of wars, earthquakes, famines, persecutions, of a world in turmoil. It’s not exactly comforting.

And then, he ends with these words: “By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

It’s easy to read this as a passage about doom, destruction, and fear. But it’s also a powerful reminder of the resilience of faith and of God’s presence, not just in stability, but in upheaval.

For those of us trying to follow Jesus today, especially in a world marked by political tension, climate crisis, social injustice, and personal struggles, these words can feel all too relevant. We know what it’s like to see systems shake, institutions falter, and the familiar fall away.

But Jesus isn’t saying, “Don’t worry, everything will stay the same.” He’s saying, “Things will change. The world will shift. There will be hardship. But don’t be afraid. Don’t give up. Don’t lose yourself in the chaos.”

Instead of promising comfort, Jesus offers *presence*. Instead of escape, he calls us to *endurance*, a courageous, faithful staying-with.

This is a call to stay grounded in what matters most. Not the grandeur of buildings or the power of institutions, but the depth of love, the work of justice, the hope of grace. Jesus reminds us that even in times of disruption, we are not alone. God's Spirit is still active. God's people are still called.

So today, consider:

- What have I been placing my trust in that may not last?
- How can I remain faithful to love and justice when the world feels uncertain?
- What does “endurance” look like in my own journey of discipleship?

The good news is that discipleship isn't about having all the answers. It's about showing up. Staying true. Listening for God's voice amid the noise.

May we endure—not with fear, but with hope. Not by clinging to the old, but by trusting in the living, liberating presence of God.

Hymn / Song

350 STF – I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Go out in the name of the Lord,
Go out to face all that this week might bring,
Go out to face it with love, hope and peace in your hearts,
Go out to discover the miracle of God's Spirit at work in the places that you'll be,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 17th November

- Why not spend some time in silent meditation today?
- You could set an alarm – perhaps for 10-15 minutes, and then finding somewhere comfortable, where you can sit and empty your mind.
- If it helps, you could use the Headspace app or website, or a similar service, to help you focus on the meditation and get used to the idea of sitting in silence for a length of time.
- Is this a practice you could include in your daily spiritual life?

Tuesday 18th November

- If you can, go on a prayer walk. Or ask someone to help you make a journey around your neighbourhood – just the few houses near you would be fine, or go on a longer trip if you'd like to take in a whole estate or community.
- As you travel past each house, pray for the people who live there – just in your mind, or under your breath. Hold their situations, whether you know them or not, in your heart.

Wednesday 19th November

- Clench your fists, then slowly open them as you pray.
- God of courage, be with all who struggle with burdens too heavy to carry. Give them strength, hope, and companions on the journey. Hold us all in your care. Amen.

Thursday 20th November

- Today is World Children's Day – take a moment to pray for the children in your life, perhaps in your family, your neighbourhood, or your wider community. Pray for their safety, and their growing awareness of God's love for them.

Friday 21st November

- Today, pray for peace.
- The world is full of conflict and violence and war. How can you be a person of peace in the midst of that context?

Saturday 22nd November

- God of love,
Show me something of the mystery of your love for me this day, I pray.
Help me to learn more of you and your designs for me and my life.
Amen.