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ORDINARY 13B

27th June 2021

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

As we have gathered, Jesus is here.
As we have brought ourselves, the Spirit is amongst us.
As we have come to worship, God is in our midst.
Let us praise the Lord.

Amen.¹

Hymn: 657 STF - You give rest to the weary - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

Loving God, we come to worship, desperate to receive from you through this act of worship.

With our burdens and pains we come and present ourselves, to simply touch your clothing and be changed.

Your Son made a way for those in pain and suffering, may this way be made clear for all.

So God, let this be a transformational day like it was for the women who clung onto your sons clothing!

In this time of worship, open our eyes to beauty, tune our ears to harmony.

The fragrance of your love permeating every moment.

The touch of your hand, the assurance of your presence guiding all we do.

Together, we want to experience you with elation the joy of your presence be here today.

So, come, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

We come with desperate hearts to receive and worship the Living and inclusive God.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 – [Click here for reading](#)

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 – [Click here for reading](#)

Mark 5:21-43 – [Click here for reading](#)

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Matthew Forsyth

Reflections on the reading

In the topsy-turvy values of the Kingdom of God, it is in giving away that we become rich, it is the poorest who go first, and it is those with the most material wealth who struggle to find their place...

Read Lucy Zwolinska's full reflection on how today's New Testament readings unpack these kingdom values by subscribing to The Vine – email thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk to find out if your circuit is already subscribed.

We are all invited to tune into the topsy-turvy values of the Kingdom of God.

Who are we told isn't worth our time and attention and love? Who does society tell us we can ignore and overlook, but perhaps we are called to pay our attention to as they tremble? Who isn't boldly approaching us and asking for help, but is secretly nursing need and hope? Let's follow Jesus' example and give them our time and attention.

Second Corinthians gives us another way that these values might play out in our lives. This letter was to the early church - disciples figuring out their way, much like we are today. The challenge is to give, so that everything is held equally, so that there are no poor and no rich.

What does that look like for us today? How can we actually model that topsy-turvy value that means that in giving away we are made whole, that in becoming poor we become rich?

Let's pray:

God we pray that you stir us up to live by your values:
Where the first are last;
Where we listen to the voiceless.
Help us to give time to those at the margins,
Remind us that it is in giving up that we are made whole.
Softener our hearts and our minds so that we might seek first your Kingdom.
Amen.³

Prayers of intercession

Oh Lord, we know that you hear us when we cry out to you.
We know that each of your children is precious to you, and loved beyond measure.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people
Hear us and set us free

³ Reflection written by Lucy Zwolinska

Lord, we know that you hear the cries that must be made in silence,
Those who live in fear of an abuser,
Those who are persecuted for their faith,
Those who are lonely or isolated.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people
Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those living in the midst of conflict
Those trying to protect their children in war-torn nations
Those whose domestic situation is marred by constant tension and fear
Those who work or live in hostile environments.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people
Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of the hungry and thirsty,
Those families who have to make the choice between heating the house and
cooking a hot meal.
Those experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis, and facing drought or crop
failure.

Oh Lord, hear the prayers of your people
Hear us and set us free.

Lord, we know that you hear the cries of those who spend their days putting on a
brave face,
Those who hide their pain from others,
Those who feel the need to be strong for someone else.

Help us to stand alongside all who cry out for you
Not to speak for them, or to assume we understand, but to remind them they are not
alone.

Help us to share a little of your love at the times when it's hard to feel your presence
In Jesus name, we pray,

Amen.⁴

Hymn: 713 STF - Show me how to stand for justice - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Jesus the Christ is restoring the whole of creation,
Holding all things together.
Today, as we go from this place, we choose to play our part in that restoration.
And may the peace of God go with you, every single step of the way.
Amen.⁵

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker