

twelvebaskets

FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE



ORDINARY 30A

29th October 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Opening Prayers

Dear Heavenly Father,

As I begin this new day, I come before you with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you for the gift of life, for the breath in my lungs, and for the opportunities that lie ahead. I acknowledge that this day is a precious blessing from you, and I commit it into your loving hands.

Lord, help me to focus my thoughts and intentions on you as I embark on this day's journey. Grant me the wisdom to see your presence in the world around me, in the beauty of creation, and in the faces of those I encounter. May I be a vessel of your love, grace, and compassion to others.

Forgive me for the times when I have strayed from your path, and help me to turn away from any thoughts or actions that do not align with your will. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, that I may walk in righteousness and follow your commandments faithfully.

Lord, grant me the strength to face any challenges or obstacles that may come my way today. Help me to trust in your plan and to remember that you are always with me, guiding and protecting me.

As I go about my daily tasks, may I do everything with a spirit of excellence and with a heart that seeks to glorify you. Let my words be seasoned with kindness and my actions reflect your love.

Lord, I surrender my worries and anxieties to you, knowing that you are in control of all things. Grant me peace in the midst of chaos and assurance in times of uncertainty.

Thank you, gracious God, for your unending love and grace. I pray that I may be a faithful servant and a shining light in this world, reflecting your love to all those I encounter.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

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

Readings: Matthew 22:34-46 – [Click for reading](#)

Hymn:

132 STF – O God, our help in ages past - [YouTube](#)

46 STF – Everlasting God, the years go by - [YouTube](#)

407 STF – Hear the call of the kingdom - [YouTube](#)

Responding to the reading

In this passage, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment, and in his response, he reveals the essence of God's desires for each and every one: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. This is a challenge that goes beyond mere religious rituals; it's a call to a radical transformation of our hearts and actions.

The real challenge lies in the second part of the passage when Jesus asks the Pharisees a question: "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They answer, "The son of David." But Jesus, quoting Psalm 110, challenges their limited understanding. He presents a paradox: How can the Messiah be both David's son and David's Lord?

This paradox points to the divinity of Christ. He is not just an earthly king but the eternal Lord. The challenge for us today is to recognize Jesus as both the humble servant who walked among us and the exalted Lord who reigns over all creation. It calls us to acknowledge Jesus' lordship not just in words but in our daily lives.

In Matthew 22:34-46, Jesus challenges us to go beyond superficial faith, rituals, and limited human understanding. This passage challenges us to love deeply, to see the divine in the human, and to acknowledge Jesus as both the son of man and the Son of God. It's a call to a faith that goes deeper, a love that goes wider, and a recognition of Christ that goes higher than we could ever imagine. Are we up for the challenge?

We each are invited to make our own choices about how to respond to all we have learned about God, and about God's incarnation in Jesus. Whichever way we choose to respond, we must remember that we are only here for a season, and this is our chance to make God's love known – in ourselves and in the world around us. Can we feel certain that, in this life gifted to us, our priority is always to point to God in some way? Are we ready to be beacons, signposts, to our loving, faithful, wonderful God, rather than our own goodness?

You may like to take time by yourself or with a friend to consider these questions:

- How does your Christian life point others to God? Are there things you might not be getting right?
- How does the life of the church point others to God? How can we do better?
- What have you read in the news this week that makes you yearn for people to know God better and think less about human achievements?

Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ,
Thank you for being a God of justice, love and mercy.

Today, my prayer is that you help me to live after your example, to be a model for those around me.

Holy Spirit, fill me anew, that I might have the words to speak of your love, and that I would demonstrate that love through our actions.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

Monday 30th October

- Gracious God,
As I step into this new week, I humbly seek your presence and guidance. Help me to set aside distractions and worries, and to turn my heart and mind toward you. May my thoughts, words, and actions be aligned with your will.
Amen.

Tuesday 31st October

- Work on jigsaw puzzles or brain teasers as a form of prayerful concentration. While you piece together the puzzle, meditate on a specific prayer or intention.

Wednesday 1st November

- Loving God,
In humble gratitude, I lift my heart to You. Thank You for the countless blessings that grace my life each day. Your love and generosity overwhelm me. I am truly thankful for all that You have given.
Amen.

Thursday 2nd November

- Light a candle and watch the flickering flame. As you do, visualise your prayers ascending like the smoke. The candle's gentle light can create a sacred atmosphere for your prayers.

Friday 3rd November

- Select an object or symbol that holds meaning for you (e.g., a cross, candle, or a flower). Place it before you and use it as a focal point for your prayers and reflections. What thoughts come to you? Does a particular person or name come to mind?

Saturday 4th November

- Take a contemplative walk through your home or garden. As you walk, pray for each room or area, asking for blessings, peace, and guidance. You can also take photos or notes to remember your prayers.