

twelvebaskets

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LENT 3B

3rd March 2024

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Take a moment to be peaceful.

If you are able you may like to plant your feet on the floor and concentrate on your body being still (if this is hard then do just sit quietly and comfortably). Notice how you feel and what you are thinking about and let those things float away giving thanks for each even if they are difficult feelings or thoughts.

When you are ready:

Raise your hands open before you and give thanks for the moment you are in.

Pause

Place your open hands on your lap and consider all that's happened this week and what you might want to lay down before God asking for help or offering thanks

Pause

Lift one hand high in the air and think about what you will offer of yourself as you worship today.

Pause

Lower your hands

If you feel able offer the following prayer:

Loving God, I am here in this moment to worship you. Amen.

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

Readings: John 2:13-22 – [Click for reading](#)

Hymn:

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded – [YouTube](#)

713 STF – Show me how to stand for justice – [YouTube](#)

Responding to the readings

In today's Gospel reading from John's Gospel, we witness Jesus' powerful act of cleansing the temple in Jerusalem. This passage invites us to reflect on the righteous anger of Jesus and the significance of the temple in our lives.

Righteous anger: Jesus displayed righteous anger as he overturned the tables of the money changers and drove out those who were buying and selling. What can we learn from this about the appropriate expression of anger and indignation in the face of injustice?

The Temple as a symbol: In the Old Testament, the temple was the centre of Jewish worship and God's presence. What does the temple symbolise in your life? Are there "temples" or sacred spaces in your heart or community that need cleansing and renewal?

Turning points: This event marked a turning point in Jesus' ministry. What turning points have you experienced in your faith journey? How have they shaped your relationship with Christ? If you are in the midst of a turning point today, then perhaps you need to pause at this point and spend some time in prayer and reflection.

Faith in action: After witnessing this event, the disciples remembered and believed in Jesus. How does witnessing Christ's transformative power in your life inspire your faith and actions?

Challenging tradition: Jesus' actions challenged traditional practices and beliefs. How can we discern when it's necessary to challenge tradition or cultural norms in the pursuit of righteousness and justice?

Reverence and worship: What steps can we take to cultivate a spirit of reverence and true worship in our lives, recognising that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit?

As you delve into John 2:13-22, consider how Jesus' cleansing of the temple speaks to the need for authenticity, purity, and reverence in your relationship with God. How can you apply these lessons to your own faith journey and daily life?

Here are some questions for you to reflect on as you think about what the gospel reading might be saying to you today:

1. Can you think of an example of destructive anger?
2. What about examples of righteous constructive anger? Are they harder to find?
3. What injustice makes you angry? What can you do constructively with this anger?
4. How can you be courageous in bringing about God's Kingdom?

Final hymn:

503 STF – Love divine all love's excelling – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Until that moment where, as the Wesley hymn says, we 'cast our crowns before him, lost in wonder love and praise', until then we know there is much work to be done to build God's kingdom of justice and joy.

Show me, Lord God, what is mine to do.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

Monday 4th March

- Breathe on me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
- God, we are sorry for the times that we have held other things as more important than you.
- For when our thoughts have been mean or selfish or greedy, we ask for your forgiveness.
- Thank you, God, that through you we are forgiven, and given the chance to start afresh.

Tuesday 5th March

- As we move into the season of Spring, as new life begins appearing all around us, today I give thanks for the gifts of creation, for the signs of hope and possibility.
- Amongst all that is difficult, all that is painful, all that is uncertain, come Lord Jesus, and use the gifts that I have, may they be used for your Kingdom here on earth.

Wednesday 6th March

- Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.

Thursday 7th March

- Look up a hymn or worship song on YouTube or in a hymn book and sit and listen or read the words aloud: don't do anything else while you listen. Let your mind, body and soul tune into God through the music in prayer.

Friday 8th March

- Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus light might shine there.

Saturday 9th March

- Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Help me to understand something of your holiness, Lord God, and remind me that I can embody your holy nature, here on earth. Draw me close and fill me with your love. Amen.