

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 27B

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A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

This moment is holy,
This time is sacred,
This space is precious,
Turn aside for a brief time from the business and busy-ness of the days and weeks just gone, and all those to come,
And be present to the here and now.
God is here, may you come to notice,
To respond,
To be transformed by the presence of God's grace.
Amen.

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

Reading: Mark 10:2-16 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the readings

Before we go into today's message, picture this: A little child running through the park, filled with joy, laughter echoing through the air. This child doesn't care about status, doesn't care about wealth, doesn't care who's watching. They are simply enjoying the moment, living with a sense of wonder, trust, and dependence on those around them. This child embodies openness and vulnerability, not burdened by the concerns of the adult world.

Now imagine how we, as adults, live in a world that demands achievement, status, and control. But what if, just as that child runs free without worry, we too were called to live differently? To trust deeply, to embrace vulnerability, to let go of the pressures of success and instead walk freely in God's grace?

In Mark 10:2-16, Jesus gives us a radical invitation—an invitation to enter the Kingdom of God not by climbing the ladder of status and power, but by becoming like that child.

Jesus wasn't just blessing the children – he was making a profound statement. He was teaching us that the Kingdom of God is not for the powerful, the elite, or the self-sufficient. It belongs to those who are like children: humble, trusting, and open to receiving God's grace.

God's Kingdom is a Kingdom of grace, humility, and equality. It is a place where all are valued simply because they are children of God, not because of what they've accomplished or what they possess. This is a radical departure from the way our world operates.

What does that look like for you? How can you embrace a child-like attitude in some of the places of responsibility, power and manipulation? How can you cultivate a childlike openness and trust in your relationship with God?

How does it look different for you to move from a place of 'meritocracy' to a place of grace? What worldly measures of success might be hindering you from fully embracing God's grace?

Responding in music

As you listen to this hymn, spend a few moments in quiet prayer and reflection. How is all that you have just read – the Bible reading, the questions, and the words and music from the hymn – shaping, changing and challenging you?

41 STF – Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful – [YouTube](#)

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

Responding in prayer

Gracious God, I come before you as one of your children, trusting in your abundant grace and love. As I lift up my prayers, I ask that you hear my cries and answer me according to Your will.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer.

For the church, both here and around the world, I pray that it may be a community that reflects your radical Kingdom – a place where all are welcomed, loved, and valued. Help the church to break down barriers of exclusion, to stand with the vulnerable, and to extend your grace to all.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer.

For the world, I pray for an end to the divisions and hierarchies that oppress and marginalize so many. Give me the courage to speak out against injustice, to work for equality, and to create a world where every person is seen as a beloved child of God.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer.

For my community, I pray that you would make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is division, may I work to bring unity; where there is loneliness, let me offer friendship; where there is fear, let me play my part in sharing hope. Help me to love my neighbours as you have loved me.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer.

For myself, I pray for the grace to let go of pride, control, and self-reliance. Teach me to live as your child – trusting in your love, depending on your mercy, and walking humbly with you every day.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear my prayer.

Amen.

Blessing

May you go out into the days and weeks ahead, driven by grace, empowered by hope, to love and embrace the childlike trust in God and love for God, in Jesus' name

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 7th October

- Today is the start of another new week, another new opportunity to do what it is you feel God is calling you to do, to let go of distractions and things that get in the way of your relationship with God.
- Why not pray about what a 'fresh start' would look like for you today?

Tuesday 8th October

- As autumn begins to set in around us, why not go for a walk if you are able and if the weather holds (or if not, find a window and spend a good stretch of time looking out at the outside world). See if you can spot signs of the season – things that are only visible at this time of year.
- Thank God for the here and now, and ask for guidance to help you live in the present.

Wednesday 9th October

- God of all grace,
Help me to notice the many blessings I have received this day.
Help me to remember that all I have is gift,
And to treat it as such. Amen.

Thursday 10th October

- Look out for someone you haven't spoken to before in your neighbourhood (or wherever you find yourself today) and go out of your way to greet them. Even if there is no conversation, take a moment to pray for them in your own mind after the encounter.

Friday 11th October

- There is still so much injustice in our world – so much that is not as God would wish it to be. Is there something that might be 'yours to do' in terms of responding? Is there an organisation that you could support, volunteer for, pray about? Spend a few moments today reflecting on what you already do for justice and charity, and think about other opportunities that might be suitable for you to take up.

Saturday 12th October

- God of the weekend, I commit this day to you
May the words of the my mouth, the deeds of my hands, the thoughts of my mind and heart
be a reflection of your love, your peace, your hope.
In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.