

twelvebaskets

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A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Find a comfortable place to sit, and close your eyes.

Rest your hands on your lap, and allow your fingers to settle in place.

Take a deep breath in through your nose, and slowly let it out through your mouth.

Lock your fingers together.

Think of the people you share your life with...the connections you have...the networks you are a part of...your loved ones, friends, family, colleagues.

Allow your clasped fingers to tense slightly, then relax them.

Consider the way our relationships can sometimes feel strained, uncomfortable and tense.

Hold all of your relationships in your heart and offer them to God.

Cup your hands in front of you.

Think of all the precious gifts you have received from God:

- The strength to face difficult situations
- Friends and family
- An everlasting relationship with Jesus rooted in a love beyond all understanding

Hold out your hands palms-up in front of you.

Allow God to challenge you,
to open your eyes and your heart.

Through this time of worship, may you hear God's voice, and feel called to serve,
To love radically, give generously and stand for justice.

Relax your hands, and rest a moment in the silence. Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 12:13-21 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding in music

Before you read these notes on the Bible passage set for today, you might like to sit and listen to (or sing along with) either or both of these hymns. If you have access to a copy of Singing the Faith, you could read the words as you listen. How do they speak to you today?

545 STF – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart – [YouTube](#)

615 STF – Let love be real, in giving and receiving – [YouTube](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's gospel reading from Luke chapter 12, Jesus responds to a man's request about dividing an inheritance with a story that cuts right to the heart of how we live and what we value. He tells the parable of a rich man whose land yields so abundantly that he builds bigger barns to store it all. His future seems secure; he says to himself, "you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God calls him a fool, because that very night his life will end and his treasures will mean nothing. Jesus concludes with a challenge: "So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

This parable is not a condemnation of wealth itself, but of misplaced trust and disordered priorities. The rich man's mistake isn't that he had a good harvest, it's that he imagined security, purpose, and meaning could be found in accumulation alone. He thought life was about having, rather than being—about storing up, rather than sharing.

For those of us who seek to follow Jesus in an open-hearted, justice-focused way, this parable asks tough but essential questions: Where do we find our security? What are we building our lives around? Are we focused only on our own comfort, or are we using what we have to serve others, to build community, to create a more just and loving world?

Jesus invites us into a different way of living—a life rich not in possessions, but in compassion. A life where grace is the currency, and generosity is the measure of abundance. This kind of richness looks like lifting others up, investing in relationships, and working for the good of our neighbours, especially those whom society leaves behind.

At the same time, the parable reminds us of life's fragility. It's a call to live with urgency and intention, not putting off love or justice until some far-off "someday." Because someday isn't guaranteed. What we do with our time, our resources, our hearts, matters now.

So today, reflect on these questions:

- What "barns" am I tempted to build – places where I hoard security or cling to what I think I own?
- How might God be inviting me to live more generously, to become "rich toward God" by sharing grace, time, resources, and love?
- If today were my last, what legacy of compassion would I want to leave?

Discipleship, Jesus shows us, isn't about gathering more for ourselves, but giving more of ourselves. Not about building bigger barns, but building deeper relationships. Not about chasing what fades, but investing in what lasts: love, justice, kindness, peace.

May we, in every choice we make, seek to be rich not in what we own, but in what we give, and find our truest security in the grace and love of God.

Responding in prayer

Loving and gracious God, as I pray today, I do so in the name of Jesus, the Lord of love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, trusting that your steadfast love endures forever.

I pray for all situations of war and conflict, remembering especially today all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, and all working to bring peace. For the people of Gaza and the West Bank. For those living in fear of escalating conflict across the Middle East and around the world. For the people of Yemen, and South Sudan.

Comfort those who are suffering and give strength to all who seek to offer love, peace and healing.

Today, I pray for all who lack the essentials of life; food, clothing, shelter, love, including the over 4,000 people sleeping rough in England, and the 200,000 people experiencing homelessness and living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation.

Come close to those in need and make me, and the society we live in generous to respond from whatever resources we have.

Loving and gracious God, I offer these prayers to you today in the name of Jesus, the Lord of love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, trusting that your steadfast love endures forever.

Thanks be to God,

Amen.

Final song

459 STF – Captain of Israel's host - [YouTube](#)

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Blessing

God of this special time, I rise from this moment,
Knowing that worship does not cease here, in fact it is only just getting started.
So, as I go from this place,
May I remember that the Spirit of God goes before me, inviting me to play my part in the unfolding story of love.

Help me to notice you, O God,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 4th August

- Think about the clothing you're wearing. How it protects and warms or cools you. How it sends signals about the person you are. How it does its job at the right time of day. How it fits with you and you with it. How it is made and who made it. How it will be used when you no longer need it. Such a simple thing we take for granted, yet such a complex set of thoughts and feelings surround it. Pause and share with God all your joys and concerns that arise from this simple act of noticing.

Tuesday 5th August

- On this day in 1963, with the Cold War in danger of boiling over, the US, UK and Soviet Union signed the 'Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty'. It was not a complete success and it did not end the conflict, but it was a move in the direction of peace and resolution.
- Today, as conflict continues across our globe and the fear of nuclear war is not entirely gone, let us pray for all in positions of power and leverage – may they use the power they have to move in the direction of peace, resolution and restoration.
- Come, Prince of Peace, we pray.

Wednesday 6th August

- Whenever you open the curtains, blinds or shutters today, take time to pray for the world and in particular those who live and work in your community. The shopkeepers, restaurants and bars. For service providers... hairdressers, beauticians, banks and the Post Office. For health providers like the doctors and chemist. Give thanks to God for their skills and commitment, if you see someone who serves your community thank them in person

Thursday 7th August

- Looking in the mirror:
- Each time you look in the mirror today, ask God to reveal to you what part you should play in their plan. What are your special gifts and graces? What in particular might you do today that would show God's love to others?

Friday 8th August

- In 1999, the Happiness Society declared 8th August to be 'Admit you're happy day' or 'happiness happens day'. There are many things in our own lives and the wider world that make us unhappy, and it's important not to skip past those or leave them unprocessed, but perhaps today we can join in the happiness movement!
- In your prayers today, say thank you to God for the things that make you happy, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.

Saturday 9th August

- Lord of light
In the stillness, in the peace, in the quiet,
Help me to notice you,
Help me to hear your voice, speaking to me,
Help me to follow in your way, O God. Amen.