

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 13A

28th June 2026

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

God of light and life,

Shine your love into my hearts this day, I pray.

As I come into this time of worship, may I sense your Spirit, may I remain open-hearted, full of compassion for every living being.

Shine your breath of grace into my body this day, I pray.

As I come into this time of worship, may I sense the Christ, forgiving me even as I find the courage to forgive those who have wronged me.

Shine your majesty into my eyes,

so that I might be awed by what is possible

and imagine a better future rooted in your love for me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

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

Reading: Matthew 10: 40-42 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading:

Today's Gospel reading is very short, but it carries a beautiful and challenging message: welcome matters.

Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." He speaks of prophets, righteous people, and even the simple act of giving a cup of cold water to one of the "little ones."

It is easy to imagine discipleship as something dramatic: bold preaching, great sacrifice, courageous public witness, engagement with world events and humanitarian crisis. And sometimes it is, and today you might like to give thanks for all those who engage in that kind of work. But here, Jesus draws our attention to something wonderfully ordinary: welcome.

A door opened.

A place made.

A cup of water offered.

A small act of care given to someone who needs it.

In God's kingdom, these things are not small.

This week, may you be reminded that hospitality is not just politeness. It is sacred. When we welcome another person, especially someone vulnerable, overlooked, or easily dismissed, we are welcoming Christ.

That is both comforting and challenging. Comforting, because it means ordinary kindness matters. Our small acts of compassion are gathered into the life of God. The phone call, the meal, the listening ear, the lift offered, the quiet encouragement: none of it is wasted.

Challenging, because Jesus expands our understanding of where we might meet him. Christ may come to us not only in the familiar face, but in the stranger. Not only in the person who agrees with us, but in the one who unsettles us. Not only in those who seem impressive, but in the “little ones”, the people with least status, least power, and least protection.

Discipleship, then, becomes a practice of attention. Who needs welcome? Who needs water? Who needs to know they are not invisible? And perhaps we also need to ask: are we willing to receive welcome too? Sometimes grace comes not through what we give, but through allowing another person to care for us.

You might like to reflect on one or more of these questions:

- Who might God be inviting you to welcome more fully?
- What “cup of cold water”, what simple, practical act of kindness can you offer this week?
- Where might Christ be coming to you through someone unexpected?

Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of God is not only found in grand gestures. It is present in small mercies, generous hospitality, and love made visible. May you recognise Christ in those you welcome, receive grace from those who welcome you, and never underestimate the holy power of a small act of love.

Hymn / Song

471 STF – Lord, I come to you, let my heart be changed, renewed – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

May you go out, with the grace of God present in your souls.
May you go out, with the love of Christ flowing in your hearts.
May you go out from this time, from this space,
With the Spirit of peace within, alongside and before you.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 29th June

- Today, pray for worship across the world.
- Give thanks for Christians gathering in many languages, cultures, traditions, and circumstances.
- God of all people, unite us in love, humility, and hope. Amen.

Tuesday 30th June

- As this month ends, look back with God.
- What are you thankful for? What has been hard? What have you learned?
- God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, receive this month and lead me onward. Amen.

Wednesday 1st July

- God of new mercies, thank you for the gift of July.
- Help me to begin this month with an open heart and steady hope.
- May I notice your grace in the ordinary rhythm of each day. Amen.

Thursday 2nd July

- Today, pray for teachers, school staff, pupils, and families as the school year nears its end.
- Pray for energy, patience, gratitude, and peace.
- God of learning, bless all who teach and all who grow. Amen.

Friday 3rd July

- Today, you might like to pray for peace in your own heart.
- Notice any anxiety, resentment, or restlessness within you.
- God of peace, meet me gently and help me breathe again. Amen.

Saturday 4th July

- Make today a day of small kindness.
- Look for one simple way to bless someone else: a message, a task, a compliment, a prayer.
- God of love, let kindness become my habit. Amen.