

# twelvebaskets



## LENT 2B

A complete Sunday service ready to use  
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

Produced by **twelvebaskets**. Subscription available from **theworshipcloud.com**

**Second Sunday in Lent - Year B**  
25th February 2024



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**372 STF – Come down, O Love divine OR**

**238 STF – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**547 STF – Beyond these walls of worship OR**

**272 STF – From heaven you came, helpless babe**

Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 9:2-9

**Hymn:**

**163 STF – When listening prophets dare to speak OR**

**463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**663 STF – I, the Lord of sea and sky OR**

**665 STF – Make us your prophets, Lord**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**287 STF – When I survey the wondrous cross OR**

**503 STF – Love divine, all loves excelling**

Blessing

---

The Vine Services are compiled and produced by twelvebaskets.

Many more resources and inspiration for this week's lectionary, leading worship and other church use are available on [www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com).

Copyright for content is retained by the original author / contributor.

**[www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com)**

## Call to worship

Grace is here to welcome us,  
Christ is here amongst us,  
The Spirit moves by ways we do not know,  
And God comes close, closer than we can imagine.

Come close, Lord Jesus.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

372 STF – Come down, O Love divine OR

238 STF – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

## Opening Prayers

*During Lent, All We Can are inviting people to ask the question ‘What is Mine to Do?’ Recognising that discerning where our voice and actions are most needed is a key part of justice-seeking. Each week, they are focussing on one word which represents one possible answer to that question. In Week 2 of Lent, that word is Commit. Find out more at [allwecan.org.uk/resources](http://allwecan.org.uk/resources)*

Loving God,

Thank you that we are able to commit to serving you because you first showed love and commitment towards us. Making the ultimate commitment of dwelling among us in order to save us.

In this Lenten season, we remember your period of discernment and preparation in the desert, which was vital for the ministry that followed. May we also allow ample time for discernment in our journey of faith.

Teach me, O Lord

### **What is mine to do**

Father we are sorry for the times we have offered a half-hearted commitment to you, and your desire for us to challenge injustice. We acknowledge that sometimes we let barriers get in the way of our commitment to you and the work you might do through us. Help us to break down these barriers.

Teach me, O Lord

### **What is mine to do**

Lord, when there is so much injustice, and so many charities and movements trying to tackle it, it can feel easy to dip our toes in – to show low commitment in a lot of places rather than full commitment in a few.

This Lent, help us to identify where our particular passions, knowledge, and skills are best put to work for your Kingdom. Help us to lay down things that are good, but are simply not ours to do. Help us to fully commit to the areas where we can have the most impact.

---

<sup>1</sup> Call to worship written by Tim Baker

Teach me, O Lord  
**What is mine to do**

Remind us that even though commitment can inspire fear and trepidation, that no step towards you goes unmatched by your supporting hand alongside us.

Comfort our fears. Excite our minds and hearts. Nudge us in the right direction.

Teach me, O Lord  
**What is mine to do**

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## **We say together the Lord's Prayer**

### **All Age Talk**

Lent, as a season, is one that is a solemn, mournful one. We follow the footsteps of Jesus in the desert, being tested by Satan, with it tirelessly leading up to Jesus being arrested, imprisoned, tried, and eventually killed.

We have the hindsight of knowing this and the great things that happened after this, but take a moment to imagine yourselves as the disciples. Long had they been excited for the coming of the Messiah, the coming of Jesus. In fact many of the disciples that followed Jesus were so excited about this fact that they really wanted to share it with others. And who wouldn't?! If you knew that Jesus was here, you'd want to tell everyone you saw! It would be like the good times were about to be here!

Yet, Jesus gave them a warning:

*(Read Mark 8: 31-38 in a version you are most comfortable with)*

From the outset, Jesus was letting the disciples know that it wouldn't be an easy time being a follower. That all they imagined of the good-times being here would be an end to suffering, and end to the hard times. Some, like Peter and Judas, thought that they would be able to become great leaders alongside Jesus in this new kingdom.

But that's not what Jesus is saying at all. If anything, Jesus is saying that it will be hard! He warns us all against trying to go this alone. That supporting one another is the way forward. Jesus calls us to not run from the hard times, but to embrace them. To follow Jesus and his example.

The disciples that didn't fully understand would truly know what Jesus was saying shortly after this with the Transfiguration of Jesus.

After this warning though, he said this, from Mark 9: 1 *(Presented here from the Message version)*:

“Then he drove it home by saying, “This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you who are standing here are going to see it happen, see the kingdom of God arrive in full force.””

Following Jesus isn't going to be easy, but should we all follow in Jesus' example, and support one another; truly we'll see and be the change in the world that Jesus talks about.

---

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by All We Can

Gentle and Loving God, be with us all in the season of Lent. Give us the strength and wisdom to follow Jesus, and to support and love others as we go on this journey.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn:**

547 STF – Beyond these walls of worship OR

272 STF – From heaven you came, helpless babe

**Readings:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 9:2-9

**Hymn:**

163 STF – When listening prophets dare to speak OR

463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past

**Reflections on the readings**

Reflections on each of today's readings, by Revd Claire Welch.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Reflect on key moments in your life that have had a sense of life before and after. What are they? How did they alter your life? Some examples of key moments may include your faith journey, your relationships, your work, the impact of tragedies. Did anything noticeably change e.g. your name after marriage, your choice of clothes for work, your lifestyle. How do/did these changes feel? Was it easy to get used to them?

Abram had lived ninety-nine years before God made his covenant with him, as described in Genesis 17. To signify the new era, God changed his name from Abram to Abraham, and his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah. In their daily exchanges, as their names were called, they and those who used their names, were reminded of God's involvement in their lives, of his covenant.

The promises to Abraham and Sarah were future orientated. The pledge that nations would come from them would not be seen in their lifetime. However, they would witness the start of the promise being fulfilled by having a son, Isaac. This tension of living in the 'now and not yet', is dominant in our own experience of faith. We have signs now of God at work, such as our own answers to prayer and experiences of God being with us, while we long for the fulfilment of God's promises in Jesus.

Psalm 22:23-31

What are the situations currently occurring in our world that may make us feel they are forsaken by God? How do the words from Psalm 22:23-31 give us hope in God's faithfulness to his promises?

Psalm 22, which was memorably quoted by Jesus on the cross, reminds us that at the worst times in our life we can feel forsaken by God. In today's reading, we join the psalmist as he shifts his orientation. Having been real about the sense of the desolation he feels and the violence he has suffered, he knows in his heart that, God 'has not

---

<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Annan-Hood

despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help' (v24).

The promises to Abraham (see Genesis 17), remind us that God's concern is for all nations and here the psalmist imagines a time when the nations will turn to God and bow before him. This image has inspired the faithful followers of God for generations and the psalmist reminds us that it does not end with us, but that his deliverance will be proclaimed 'to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it'. Having hope in a God who is faithful to his promises is integral to the Christian faith.

#### Romans 4:13-25

Reflect on situations where you have earned a reward. This may be studying hard for good exam results, working hard for a promotion, behaving well to gain rewards from your parents. How does it feel to be rewarded for hard work? Now consider, how does it feel to know that we can't earn God's promises to us?

In his letter to the Romans, Paul reminds his readers that Abraham had not earned the promises of God by following the law. Abraham had received God's promises through faith. Abraham trusted in God's words to him and believed that they would happen. He believed, even when all the evidence suggested otherwise – Paul makes comment on Abraham's age and Sarah's inability to become pregnant (v19). This reminds us of the writer of Psalm 22, who too was able to imagine and hope for a reality that very much did not exist in his current experience. Just as it was for Abraham, it is also true for us, the justification we have before God does not come from our following of God's law or anything that we can do, but in placing our faith in God and the promises that come from Christ's resurrection.

#### Mark 9:2-9

What are the experiences you have had that you often think back to? Perhaps they are experiences you wish could last forever. In what ways do they give you comfort and hope?

It would seem that for Peter, the Transfiguration was a moment he didn't want to come to an end. He suggested setting up camp for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. In the previous chapter in Mark, Peter had recognised Jesus for who he was – the Messiah, not because of a Transfiguration experience but because of what he had seen in the teaching and ministry of Jesus. Yet, here on the mountain Peter had an experience that gave him astounding confirmation of who Jesus was. We can only imagine that on the very tough days of Peter's ministry, where he experienced persecution and doubt, he clung on to experiences like these reminding him of who Jesus was and the messianic promises that would be fulfilled in him.

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Hymn:**

663 STF – I, the Lord of sea and sky OR

665 STF – Make us your prophets, Lord

#### **Prayers of intercession**

Include specific situations that are relevant to today's concerns.

Loving God,

---

<sup>4</sup> Reflection written by Claire Welch

For a world that feels forsaken as it experiences war, famine, and poverty.  
Hear the cries of the suffering and bring relief.

For our local community that feels forsaken as it experiences limited services, waiting lists  
and the need for food banks.

Hear the cries of the suffering and bring relief.

For individuals who feel forsaken as they experience isolation, sickness, and loss.

Hear the cries of the suffering and bring relief.

For the areas in our own lives where we each feel forsaken.

Hear the cries of our suffering and bring relief.

Set hope alive as we trust in your promises and look forward to your coming kingdom.

In the powerful name of Jesus we pray,

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

### **We will now take up the offering.**

Accept these, our gifts Lord God.

May change begin with us, and may we take the ordinary, every-day things you have  
given to us, and turn them into something extraordinary, in your hands.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

### **Hymn:**

287 STF – When I survey the wondrous cross OR

503 STF – Love divine, all loves excelling

### **Blessing**

May God help us to steer our lives towards him,

May he use us to break the cycle of poverty

And keep the wheels of transformation turning.

May Almighty God bless you and guide you on your way,

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Claire Welch

<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker