

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 13C

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

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**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**  
29th June 2025



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**61 STF – Our God is a great big God OR**

**396 STF – Spirit who broods, Spirit who sings**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**53 STF – How shall I sing that majesty? OR**

**473 STF – 'Moses, I know you're the man,' the Lord said**

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

**Hymn:**

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

**674 STF – Would I have answered when you called**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**673 STF – Will you come and follow me? OR**

**662 STF – Have you heard God's voice, has your heart been stirred?**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

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

**62 STF – Our God is an awesome God**

Blessing

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**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).**

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## Call to worship

The wind of the Spirit is blowing through this place,  
Awakening, stirring, hoping, inspiring.  
Help us to catch her breath today, O God,  
And join in with the remarkable work of healing and loving that is happening all around us,  
in your name,

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

61 STF – Our God is a great big God OR

396 STF – Spirit who broods, Spirit who sings

## Opening Prayers

Let us pray...

As we join together in prayer today, I would like to close your eyes.

Take a few deep breaths, in through your nose and gently out through your mouth.

Tune in to any noise around you, people breathing, clocks ticking,  
then focus on your breathing, try to quiet your thoughts, ignore the “to do list”.

I would like you to imagine you are walking alongside a steady flowing river, find a spot to take a seat and watch the flowing water. We all arrive here with our baggage, weighed down by our fears, doubts, shame, those things we wished we had done or said, those things we wish we had not done or said, if you can, imagine placing all that weighs you down into the river, as you do, pray for help to let go of all that doesn't serve you. As the river flows towards the sea, towards something so much bigger, know that your concerns and worries are heard by God and if we have the courage to let go, he will offer us forgiveness, love and support and lighten our load.

Load lightened I would like you to look at the things in your world you have to be grateful for, basking in the light, love and wonder of our God.

Give thanks for the life of Jesus on earth, his teachings and his love for us... a love so strong he died on a cross for us, a love so strong that he walks with us, carries us when we are too weary to walk, resides in our souls.

Take some time to quietly express your thanks. Those things in your body, your life, your world... then into the wider world.

Expressing gratitude is good for us, it helps strengthen our relationships, with ourselves, those around us and more importantly with God.

Let us pray that as we acknowledge gratitude in our own lives we can be a source of gratitude in the lives of others, using our voice, hands, feet and love to love and serve God.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

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

### **All Age Talk**

In today's Bible story, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. He knows it will not be easy, but he is determined to follow the path the parental God has given him.

As Jesus travels, some people say they want to follow him.

Jesus welcomes them but he also tells them the truth. Following him means putting God first. It means not getting distracted or waiting for a better time. It means trusting that the parental God will be with us, even when the way feels difficult.

Now, let's try something together. Everyone pretend you are riding a bike. Get your hands ready like you are holding handlebars. Good. Now, while keeping your hands steady, turn your head and look right behind you. What happens?

*(Pause for a moment.)*

It is hard to stay steady when looking backwards. That is just like following Jesus. We will wobble if we keep looking back at everything we leave behind. But if we keep our eyes looking forward to Jesus, we can move ahead with trust and courage.

Jesus calls us today to follow with hearts full of love, ready to move forward with Him. And He promises that the parental God will walk with us wherever we go.

Let us pray.

Loving parental God, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you. Thank you for walking with us and guiding us every step of the way. Give us the courage to follow you with our whole hearts.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### **Hymn:**

53 STF – How shall I sing that majesty? OR

473 STF – 'Moses, I know you're the man,' the Lord said

**Readings:** 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

### **Hymn:**

463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past OR

674 STF – Would I have answered when you called

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<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

## Reflections on the readings

How might you describe the journey of faith? Where are you at with that journey at the moment?

Today's readings speak into this idea of what our journey looks like, and how it is a creative mix of freedom and commitment. We delve into two enriching scriptures – Luke 9:51-62 and Galatians 5:1, 13-25 – both of which passages offer profound insights into the nature of discipleship, the essence of freedom in Christ, and how we live out this freedom responsibly.

Pause for a moment and imagine:

You are on a journey, not just any trip, but one that decides the course of your future. You're following a leader who walks ahead with purpose and determination. This is the scenario the disciples find themselves in with Jesus in Luke's Gospel, as they journey towards Jerusalem.

Jesus sets out resolutely for Jerusalem, teaching his disciples and encountering people along the way. Despite His determination, He faces rejection and misunderstanding about His mission and what it means to follow Him. He emphasises the cost of discipleship, saying, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

This passage forces us to consider the depth of our commitment to following Christ. Jesus doesn't mince words about the challenges and sacrifices involved. Reflect for a moment on your own journey with Christ. What does it mean for you to follow Him resolutely? Are there comforts or securities you are called to leave behind?

In Galatians 5, Paul speaks about freedom – a theme that ties beautifully with our call to follow Jesus. He writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free," but he warns us not to use our freedom to indulge the flesh, but to serve one another humbly in love. This ties directly to the fruit of the Spirit, which Paul outlines as love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Let's think about these fruits for a second. Which one of these do you feel you exhibit well? Which do you struggle with? Share your thoughts with the person next to you.

*[Pause to allow people to talk together, and perhaps share a few answers with the whole congregation]*

Some questions for further discussion, in small groups or all together:

- How does living by the Spirit help us commit to the journey of discipleship that Jesus sets before us?
- How does this spiritual fruit influence our response to challenges, rejections, or the cost of following Jesus?
- Are there areas in your life where you feel the need to embrace more of this freedom to grow in the Spirit?

As we contemplate our readings, and what God might be saying to us today, let us remember that our freedom in Christ is not simply about liberation from sin but also an invitation to a life richly adorned with the Spirit's fruit. This freedom is integral to our journey of following Jesus. It supports us as we resolutely set our faces towards whatever Jerusalem lies in our path.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, thank you for the freedom we find in Christ. Help us to grasp the depth of commitment required to follow you and to use our freedom not for selfish gain but to serve each other in love. Cultivate in us the fruit of the Spirit, that we might not only follow Christ but become more like him on our journey.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.<sup>4</sup>

**Hymn:**

673 STF – Will you come and follow me? OR

662 STF – Have you heard God's voice, has your heart been stirred?

**Prayers of intercession**

For our prayers of intercession, I invite you to hold three short periods of quiet, in which each of us is invited to bring our own prayers to God.

Firstly, we pray for those close to home, calling to mind the name or the face of somebody in our own family, amongst our church congregation or a close friend. In the quiet, we hold them and their situation up to God.

*[Silence]*

Living God, you know our hearts and our hurts. We commit them to you now, and invite you to come close to those we have prayed for, bringing them your healing, your comfort, your hope.

Secondly, we pray for situations further afield – taking a moment to pray for something we have heard in the news that troubles us, or for someone we have never met but whose story has affected us. In the quiet, we hold these people and situations up to God.

*[Silence]*

Living God, you know the pains of your world. It can feel like a dark world when we switch on the news, or read our newspapers. In the darkness, bring your light. In the conflict, bring your peace. In the brokenness, bring your healing.

*[Silence]*

Finally, we spend a moment praying for the church: perhaps this church congregation, the wider Christian church, or all people of faith. In the quiet, we pray for all who are gathering in worship today.

*[Silence]*

Living God, help us – your people – to be your hands and feet in the world. May we find ways to be an answer to prayer, to bring transformation in our own lives, communities and our world.

We pray these, and all our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Reflection written by Tim Baker

<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

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

Living, loving God,  
Our whole world is alive with your grace,  
Flowing through all things,  
And today we came to you in gratitude, with hope, and as part of a community of love and peace.  
Hear our thank yous this day, we pray, and use these gifts to unlock your grace in this community, this country, this world.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

## **Hymn:**

503 STF – Love divine, all loves excelling OR  
62 STF – Our God is an awesome God

## **Blessing**

Your love is amongst us, O God,  
And flowing ahead of us, out of the doors,  
Onto the street, into the homes, businesses, workplaces and gathering spaces of this community.  
Show us how to offer something of your love this day, we pray,  
O God.  
Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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

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