

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 10A

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 After Pentecost - Year A**  
11th June 2023



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**116 STF – Sing for God’s glory that colours the dawn of creation OR**

**293 STF – All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord**

Opening Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**367 STF – When I was lost, you came and rescued me OR**

**455 STF – All my hope on God is founded**

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**Hymn:**

**610 STF - Best of all is God is with us OR**

**347 STF – Crown him with many crowns**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

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

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

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**345 STF – And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour’s blood? OR**

**402 STF – Go to the world! Go into all the earth**

Blessing

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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).**

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## Call to worship

In this moment we pause to meet with God:  
The God who welcomes us regardless of time and place,  
The God who encourages us to learn and love,  
The God who challenges us to change and grow.

In this moment we pause to meet with God.  
To get ready, to praise, to contemplate the global community we are a part of and to recognise the joy we have in every encounter with the one, who by their grace, blesses us.

In this moment we pause to meet with God.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

116 STF – Sing for God’s glory that colours the dawn of creation OR  
293 STF – All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord

## Opening Prayers

You may wish to play the tune to the hymn, Speak O Lord (Singing the Faith 161) in the background, or in the pauses between lines in this prayer, based on the hymn).

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
Speak as we receive your Holy Word and seek to know you more.  
Mould us that, as we encounter you, we also become more like you, and the light of Christ shines through us, our actions and our way of being.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us,  
All your purposes for your glory.

*[Pause].*

Teach us, O Lord, as we come to you,  
How to obey your wishes, how to be reverent and humble.  
Open our eyes to your love and desire for our lives,  
Let your words flow through us that their truth and power might prevail over unbelief.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us,  
All your purposes for your glory

*[Pause].*

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
May we fulfil your plans for us, and forgive us when we stray from those.  
May we know the truths that echo down through eternity, and live those truths out in our day-to-day lives.  
By grace, we stand on your promises,  
By faith you walk with us.

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

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us,  
All your purposes for your glory.

*[Pause].*

Thank you Lord,  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>

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

### **All Age Talk**

Welcome to worship! That's what this is – on a Sunday, we gather to worship, maintaining an ancient tradition, and hoping to find something new.

It is good to worship God! Today, in our Sunday service, we are still in the season of Pentecost, that time when we think about how the church began. Today, I am inviting you to think a bit about what worship means to you and how it changes and affects the rest of our life.

Have a think for a moment:

- What new things are you learning at the moment?
- What are you being reminded of that you might have forgotten?
- Who are the new people in your life (perhaps new friends or reconnecting with people whom you have not seen for a while)?
- What do you think might be a 'next step' for you as you try to follow Jesus.

As we worship, let's use this chance to reflect and learn more about ourselves and how God might be working through us.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### **Hymn:**

367 STF – When I was lost, you came and rescued me OR

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded

**Readings:** Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### **Hymn:**

610 STF - Best of all is God is with us OR

347 STF – Crown him with many crowns

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<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Jane Bingham

<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

## Reflections on the readings

Have you ever been in a meeting or a gathering when you felt so sure you didn't belong? Perhaps that you don't feel clever, or prepared, or knowledgeable enough, and you are so sure that everyone else does?

Once, in a work meeting with a bunch of very clever people, who all seemed to have been better briefed than me about the particular piece of business we were discussing, I remember thinking to myself: 'I probably need to quit after this meeting because I'm not good enough at this'. And then, across the table, someone piped up and said something like: 'this might sound like a silly question but...'

As they sought clarification from the speaker, I realised that almost the entire room was now looking more relaxed, more alert, more aware of what was going on. Perhaps I wasn't alone! Perhaps it was okay not to know... I thanked the question-asker afterwards, but had to line up behind half a dozen other people who wanted to do so first! We'd all been having that same, sickening feeling that we didn't belong, and thankfully someone had actually acted on it! It's a horrible feeling isn't it, that maybe these aren't 'my people' and I don't fit in.

Perhaps you have a story like that – where you didn't know what cutlery to use, whether you should stand up or sit down at this bit, whether you'd got the dress-code correct, or a thousand other variations of the ways we can feel excluded: the barriers to belonging. Or perhaps your stories of 'not belonging' run deeper, and more uncomfortable than that. Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia and dozens of other systems of oppression and exclusion are at work in our world, leaving millions of people excluded, victimised and damaged each day. Let us be aware of the role we play in those systems of exclusion, and do the work we have to do to unpick the damage we are doing.

All of this to say: exclusion is real.

Inclusion is vital. Today's Bible readings are a reminder of that – specifically our gospel story for today. Jesus steps into three situations where a religious leader may typically have been expected to go in his contemporary society. In fact, each of the three encounters he has in this passage might have been deemed 'unclean' by contemporary Jewish law, another system that has played its part in exclusion – marking whole groups of people as 'ritually unclean' because of their profession, heritage or condition. Jesus consistently and repeatedly steps across these barriers to ensure his message of radical inclusion cuts through. And he's doing it again today.

He transforms the life of a tax collector – the ultimate 'bad guy', who was collecting taxes on behalf of the oppressive Roman regime. Definitely persona non-grata in whole swathes of Jewish society at the time.

He speaks to and blesses the bleeding woman, even though she has touched him and, by touching him, potentially marked him out as unclean too.

He goes into the house of a dead child, and is not afraid to touch her body, rather using this encounter to bring grace, healing and a miraculous resurrection.

Everyone is included. The tax collector. The old and suffering. The young. The grieving. Even death is not enough to separate us from God's love for us in Christ. If nothing else, I hope that radical inclusion is a message of hope for you today: however

broken, useless, excluded, shunned, shamed and in pain you feel; you are welcome. You are welcome here. There is a space for you in God's big story of love.

This is what radical inclusion looks like: there is space for us. All of us.

But it also comes with a challenge, to create spaces where others feel like they are included too. These stories, and so many of the other stories Jesus tells, or gets involved in, are a reminder that everyone is welcome. But they are also a reminder that if we ever think that we are part of the 'in crowd', that we are the ones who get to control the doors, that we are in charge of who comes in and who comes out...then we've missed the point. Think of the parable of the wedding feast, or the Samaritan helping the beggar on the road, or Jesus healing lepers and rebuking religious leaders.

This is a man who came to upset the social order.

This is a God who is not interested in Empire and control, or mixing faith with power and nation-building.

This Jesus is an invitation into radical inclusion, and that should make us uncomfortable, if we think we've 'got it all sorted'.

- How are you playing a part in excluding others?
- What barriers and borders do you put in place, or help to maintain?
- Who do you think feels excluded from our church community?
- How could we change that?

These are difficult questions for us to wrestle with, but worth the time to make space for if we are to address the challenge that Jesus' radical inclusion sets before us.

Let us pray:

God of all grace, show us how to respond to your invitation to build a kin-dom where all are truly welcome.

Show us how to reach across the borders and barriers, sometimes of our own making, and make space for those we have excluded from our churches, our communities, our homes and our spaces.

Help us to play our part in building a diverse, rainbow-people who are transformed by your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen<sup>4</sup>

### **Hymn:**

547 STF – Beyond these walls of worship OR

665 STF – Make us your prophets, Lord

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

## **Prayers of intercession**

God of wondrous things,

We thank you for the variety of peoples and species that dwell on our planet.

For all the languages we hear, the customs we see and the faiths we encounter.

We pray your blessing on this richly diverse world and ask you to help us.

In particular help us to better consider how you would have us show your love to each person made in your image and to know how to act in support when they are faced with having to live with or flee from war or famine.

*[Pause]*

God of tiny ideas,

Help us to pay attention to even the smallest things happening around us.

Keep us alert to injustice even when it seems insignificant, because it isn't to those close to it, and help us to stand for what is right.

Help us to watch out for the new idea and the risk taker who might be planting seeds that we are called to water.

Watch over the ideas generators and the fledgling projects and pour out your spirit on them so that they can grow and bear fruit.

God of expansive thinking,

We thank you for those using their skills and intellect for the good of humanity.

Those focussed on issues of climate change and ideas around renewable energy or recycling. Those forging ahead with thinking and experimentation on new vaccines to combat diseases like malaria and HIV/Aids. Futurologists who seek to understand what will happen to our world over the coming years and are ready to embrace technology and efficient use of the world's resources for the good of everyone.

Specialist economists who seek to prove that there is enough for everyone to prosper not just the wealthy few. Help us not to be frightened of the new but embrace the richness of life you offer and "step up" to play our part so that the world is safe for generations to come.

*[Pause]*

God of revelation and all things beyond our understanding,

Make us a ready for anything,

Keep us on our toes ready to join in the divine dance with you,

Ready to bathe in the grace that you shower down on us and ready to look for the next thing to be revealed.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Jane Bingham

Lord, you have called us to follow you,  
And we seek to do that in any way we can.

Use us today, and use these gifts, that they may be a blessing to others, and to whole  
of creation.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

**Hymn:**

345 STF – And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood? OR

402 STF – Go to the world! Go into all the earth

**Blessing**

Go from this place awash with God's grace offered to you through story and song.  
Share that grace so that others might learn how special it is.

Embody God's radical grace and strive to make the world a better place.

Do not cease until all are wrapped in the love of God and are able to flourish and  
grow.

Do not cease until the Kingdom of God is realised as she would want it to be

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Jane Bingham

<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Jane Bingham