

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 29B

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

Produced by **twelvebaskets**. Subscription available from **[theworshipcloud.com](http://theworshipcloud.com)**

**Ordinary 29 - Year B**  
17th October 2021



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**55 STF – Immortal, invisible, God only wise OR**

**115 STF – Praise ye the Lord! 'Tis good to raise our hearts and voices in his praise**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**13 STF – Sing of a God in majestic divinity OR**

**362 STF – Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity**

Readings: Job 38:1-7; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done OR**

**80 STF – My God, I am thine**

What am I being called to?

**Hymn:**

**103 STF – God is love: let heaven adore him OR**

**687 STF – One human family God has made**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

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

**415 STF – The Church of Christ, in every age**

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**

Creator God, reveal yourself to us through your eternal word.  
Precious Jesus, reveal yourself through us in the love that we share.  
Holy Spirit, reveal yourself in us through the gifts that we use.  
Three in One, be the life within us as we journey with you.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## **Hymn:**

55 STF – Immortal, invisible, God only wise OR

115 STF – Praise ye the Lord! 'Tis good to raise our hearts and voices in his praise

## **Opening Prayers**

O God, we welcome you here this day,  
Let us worship and praise your name together today.

We come with the burdens and worries of this past week,  
And as we gather, we find a way to bear them together, as your family, as your church, as a community.

And as we gather, we are one family,  
We are siblings united by the love of Jesus and called to emulate this love in our daily lives.

Come let us be joyful in the Lord, as we worship this day - hallelujah!

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

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

### **All Age Talk**

In our Bible reading today, Jesus is taken to one side by two brothers. They have heard about this Jesus and seen how people just gravitate to him like a celebrity. You see they want a bit of that for themselves.

James and John asked Jesus, "Can we sit on your left and your right? Jesus's reply was "Do you even know what you're asking?" Are you willing to drink from my cup? What he meant was can you live the life that I'm living?

When the rest of the twelve overheard it, they got angry with John and James. Surely Jesus would see they were unfit! However, do you think Jesus would choose their names?

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

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Annan-Hood

Jesus then gathered his friends the disciples around him. In true Jesus like fashion he spoke with patience as he described what being great is all about.

It's not thrones, crowns, gold or gems, but serving others needs before your own. Those who are greatest don't look it. You would never guess who they are. They may look like a maid or a servant. But in God's eyes they're really a star.

Jesus literally demonstrated this in his life. He came down from heaven and washed his friends' feet. He came to help and serve and show what love truly is about.

So being great is not about the followers we have on social media. Nor is it measured on how much money we have in our account, or how 'popular' we are. Greatness and living a life well lived is about serving and helping others. Who could you serve and help this week?

Let us pray.

Lord, help us to serve others like you did on earth. Help us to put others needs before our own.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn:**

13 STF – Sing of a God in majestic divinity OR

362 STF – Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity

**Readings:** Job 38:1-7; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

**Reflections on the reading**

The two 'Sons of Thunder' (James and John) have appeared from time to time along with Peter as the small group with whom alone Jesus has shared and will share some of his most private moments. The three of them with Andrew were the first disciples called to follow Jesus, and they are mentioned together at the head of the list of the twelve in chapter 3 of Mark's gospel.

So they can reasonably think of themselves as leaders in the group. But it has been Peter who has taken the lead and acted as spokesman for the group on several occasions. James and John may well have begun to feel overshadowed, and decided that it was time to assert their position. Hence this bizarre approach to Jesus.

The request for the seats beside Jesus in his glory could hardly have come at a more incongruous moment. He has just spoken not of glory but of humiliation,

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

rejection and death. Perhaps they have picked up the words about rising again and are beginning to see that there may be some 'glory' beyond that death.

Or, perhaps more likely, they may have simply fastened on the title 'the Son of man' with its associations of glory in the Old Testament, and filtered out the less welcome parts of what Jesus has said about how the mission of the Son of man is to be achieved. For whatever reason, they do seem to have put their foot in it rather seriously, and Jesus is not slow to point out to them the unwelcome implications of their request.

The glory is to be real enough, but the way to it is through suffering, which Jesus refers to as a cup to be drunk and a baptism to be endured. If they want to share the glory, they must share the suffering too. Jesus' question in verse 38 sounds like a rhetorical question, and it is a surprise to find that it is answered at all, let alone that it is answered positively. The glib assurance of their reply 'We are able' is breathtaking, but perhaps it betrays not so much a conscious claim to be ready and able to share all that Jesus will undergo as a still inadequate grasp of what he has been talking about.

One day they will indeed suffer in their turn, James as one of the first Christian martyrs and John, according to tradition, as a prisoner on the isle of Patmos. But that suffering will not in itself earn them the places of honour which they covet.

'Promotion' in the kingdom of God is not won by aggressive self-presentation or even by martyrdom. It is for God, not us, to determine how its 'honours' are distributed. In the light of this chapter so far, we may be sure that it will not be on the sort of basis that human society takes for granted. It will be the little ones who will be the greatest in the kingdom of God.

Something for us to reflect on:

It is easy to pour scorn on the crass self-assertion and self-interest of James and John. But how far have we, after two thousand years to absorb the values of the kingdom of God, even now managed to escape from the world's concepts of status and importance?<sup>4</sup>

*[This is an opportunity to hold a few minutes of quiet, allowing people to reflect on times in their lives when they have been too self-important, or when church has become a place for them to exert their egos rather than to serve God. If you wish, there may be a chance for people to offer their stories and to pray for one another as the congregation seeks to encourage each other in becoming more Christ-like].*

### **Hymn:**

94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done OR

80 STF – My God, I am thine

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from Mark: The People's Bible Commentary by Dick France

## **What are you being called to?**

In today's reading from Job, God gives orders to the morning. The writer, philosopher and theologian G K Chesterton wondered whether the sun did not rise every morning of its own accord: "It is possible that God says every morning, 'Do it again' to the sun; and every evening, 'Do it again' to the moon."

Here, in Job, we see that process of creation establishing the rhythms of day and night. As John Goldingay notes:

Night is the natural time for wrongdoing, but at morning the folds in the mountains become exposed like the folds in a garment, and wrongdoers get shaken out of their hiding places as spiders or crumbs get shaken out of a garment. So with the dawn faithless people lose the light they like (that is, what other people call darkness), and they can no longer exercise their violent power in order to do wrong.

How do you interact with these rhythms of creation? A great many ancient religious traditions have their own routines and practices for morning and night – think, for example, of the morning and evening compline of some of the Celtic communities (Northumbria or Iona communities in the UK, for example).

If you don't yet have your own practice for marking the morning, and the evening, could you think of one that might be helpful for you in your context? You might like to take inspiration from Job, or look on the internet or speak to someone you know and trust about what their practices are. It could be some meditation, some prayer, a Bible reading in bed before you get up, a walk in the dusk, or something that would help you.

Let's build practices that help us engage with the world around us, and help us remain humble, connected and Spirit-filled.

## **Hymn:**

103 STF – God is love: let heaven adore him OR

687 STF – One human family God has made

## **Prayers of intercession**

Let us open our hearts and be vulnerable before Jesus as we share what is on our hearts.

*[If it is your practice, there is time indicated below to share prayer needs communally]*

Jesus called the disciples and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great

among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.”

How often have we been like the leaders of the Gentiles, letting power and authority overtake our hearts?

We begin with nothing but best intentions, then slowly put ourselves above those we serve. Let us remember those around us who lead, be it in this church, in this community, represent our interests in Parliament or this country abroad. We keep them in our hearts, alongside their families, that they be safe and healthy, but also have the courage to stand up against injustice and keep their communities at the heart of their decisions. In the silence, let us bring the names of those who we call leaders and those concerns on our hearts to God.

*[Time of silence or to share prayer concerns]*

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.

May we be that servant hearted leader, help those around us and be a pastoral presence within our community.

May these concerns and prayers be taken to God in the words Jesus has given us.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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

**Blessing the offering**

Thank you Lord for all the amazing gifts you have given us – and we return these gifts to you now: the gifts we have given here today, but also the gifts of our lives and all that we are.

In the days and weeks ahead, we commit ourselves to working for your kingdom.

In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

**Hymn:**

347 STF – Crown him with many crowns OR

415 STF – The Church of Christ, in every age

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Tim Annan-Hood

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

## **Blessing**

Companion God, take us out into your world.

Fire us with your courage.

Touch us with your humility and bless us as we face the reality of our everyday service to others.

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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