

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 15C

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 15 - Year C**  
10th July 2022



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**28 STF – Jesus calls us here to meet him OR**

**571 STF – As your family, Lord, see us here**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**491 STF – As servants working an estate OR**

**242 STF – A new commandment I give unto you**

Readings: Amos 7:7-17; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

**Hymn:**

**249 STF – Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love OR**

**164 STF – Your words to me are life and health**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

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

**257 STF – Would you walk by on the other side**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**256 STF – When I needed a neighbour, were you there? OR**

**413 STF – Send down the fire of your justice**

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

As we sing and pray,  
As we listen and reflect,  
As we learn and mediate,  
Join us in our worship - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Surround us with your love,  
That we might glorify your name,  
In these next few minutes and in all that is to come.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

28 STF – Jesus calls us here to meet him OR

571 STF – As your family, Lord, see us here

## Opening Prayers

We are on a journey through life  
***Our journey brings us here today***

Who joins you today?  
***Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Our Neighbours we see each day.***

What does the Law ask of you?  
**To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, our soul, our strength, and our mind. And to Love our neighbour as ourselves.**

And how do you greet one another today?  
***Peace and Love to you***

***Amen***

*(You may Share the Peace with one another if that is your tradition)*

We bring these things to you with the words handed down from the first followers of Christ to now:<sup>2</sup>

## We say together the Lord's Prayer

## All Age Talk

A race for good

Set up a race with a start and an end point - on the way pop some pictures of people on the ground or slightly hidden.

---

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

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

Ask the children (or adults) to race from the start to finish line and say that if they want to they can pick up the people on the way but it may slow them down.

Set the race going and once everyone has finished ask who picked up the most people (they probably haven't come first). Tell that person that they are the winner and give them a small prize.

Explain that in the story of the good samaritan the man who stops to help gives up his time and his resources to help someone else. Jesus tells us that this is the way that we get the ultimate prize, eternal life with God.<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn:**

491 STF – As servants working an estate OR

242 STF – A new commandment I give unto you

**Readings:** Amos 7:7-17; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

**Hymn:**

249 STF – Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love OR

164 STF – Your words to me are life and health

**Reflections on the reading**

What makes a good life? This is a question which permeated a lot of my studies at university, it was central to a lot of the philosophy and religion I chose to study and probably generated the biggest variety in responses from people in the class (other than maybe the one where we discussed whether the chair I was sat on really existed - it felt very real to me). It is a question as old as time and one many of us still grapple with from day to day just as Socrates and Plato did and slightly more recently Bentham, Kant and it shapes our politics today, with people split on what makes a good society and a good life for those within it. Millions of people over thousands of years have talked about what makes a good life and it can be found in the foundations of all our readings today too.

As we spoke about it so much in philosophy and politics classes through my three year degree I began to think about what made a Christian life, was it following the rules of the church or was it something deeper? What was the point of living a good life at all?

Let's take the last question first, why do we bother trying to live a good life? I think there are two main reasons within Christianity for living a good life: 1) access to eternal life/salvation and 2) to have a relationship with God. These two reasons are captured in our three readings. The first is clearly outlined in the story of the Good Samaritan; the expert in law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life? And

---

<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Rachel Allison

Jesus answers with those famous words, telling the audience what living a good earthly life looks like which will grant you access to eternal life. In Colossians Paul writes about the prayers he is saying for the Colossians that God may give them the strength and tools to 'live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way' ; in other words Paul is praying for a good life for the Colossians, through having a relationship with God. In the Amos reading we find the people of Bethel moving away from God, away from the plumb or straight line they should walk for a good life, if they don't lead a good life they lose their relationship with God.

From a Christian perspective these are both good reasons to live a good life but it is important to note that living a good life in order to receive eternal salvation is not what we are called as Christians to do and without the crucial relationship with God we are no longer living a good life but merely acting at living a good life. It is through our relationship with God that we are enabled to live life in all of its fullness and by receiving the holy spirit into our lives as Paul prays for - through receiving God's blessings we, just like the Colossians, are able to live a good life.

This leads me onto the first question I asked - so what makes a good Christian life. I think the answers are pretty clear in the readings and if we weren't sure Jesus nicely outlines them in his parable of the good samaritan. Jesus tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'. These are lines we repeat and say so often I sometimes feel like we are in a school assembly reciting the school motto or doing a repeat after me song. We don't hear the power of these words or the challenge in them. It seems like a simple answer to the complex question that people have been talking about for thousands of years. Okay, great ticked off, solved it, let's just get on with doing it.

Wouldn't it be nice if it were all that simple? If loving God and loving your neighbour was something that came naturally to us all, but unfortunately it isn't, our relationships with both God and our neighbours are complex, messy and do not always feel like 'the good life'. Personally, I have sometimes wanted to shout at God 'why me?' sometimes I have wanted to keep my faith and love for God quiet because so many of my friends aren't people of faith and don't quite get the 'thing I do on a Sunday' and sometimes I doubt if God is really listening to me. At these times I am not loving God with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, I am barely showing God much love at all. I also know that I can be judgemental of people, lose my cool with my neighbours, not be as sympathetic and empathetic as I could be when they are in need and not stand up for people when they need me. And with some of the mental health challenges I have faced I know that I have not loved myself enough to give others a chance to be loved by me.

I am flawed and broken, as we all are, and God meets us at the cross once we acknowledge those things and decide we are going to strive to live the good life, to love God, love ourselves as the children of God and love our neighbours.

As we continue to strive for the good life we must take up the challenges that have been laid before us:

### **Love our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength**

- We must reflect on what this means for us, what our current relationship with God looks like and whether we focus on all of these areas. Do we give God

our heart in our passionate worship but not put our mind to work showing our love through asking questions and discovering more? Or do we bear our souls to God in prayer but not show strength when challenged about our faith?

- We must try to share our love for God and God's love for us with others. If we believe that it is the most important relationship in our lives and it helps us to lead. Not all of us are called to stand on street corners and shout about God's love but we are all called to share our faith in some way, be that through a coffee chat with a friend, sharing what we actually did on Sunday with our colleague or praying for someone who needs love and support.
- We must remember that God also loves us with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. This is not a one way relationship, this is a covenant, a marriage, a relationship in every sense of the word. God will carry us through and be there even when we don't hit the mark, showing us the way to live a good life.

### **Love our neighbour as ourselves**

- We must learn to love ourselves, taking all our flaws and failures to the cross, receiving the grace of God and reminding ourselves that we are children of God, have inherent dignity, worth and strength.
- We must love all our neighbours, even when we don't always like them. To bridge that cultural, political or social divide and offer them the hand of friendship and the gift of unconditional love to all.
- We must love actively, not passively. We must show our love for others through challenging injustice, welcoming in the stranger and showing respect for all not waiting for it to be earned.

Living the good life may not be easy or straightforward, it may be complicated and messy, disappointing and heart-breaking at times but it is so worth it to be filled with wisdom, understanding, power, endurance, patience and most importantly the love and redemption of Jesus Christ.

My prayer for all of us is this, that we challenge ourselves to try and live the good life in the way that Jesus taught us to, spreading love and faith with God, ourselves and our neighbours.<sup>4</sup>

### **Hymn:**

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

257 STF – Would you walk by on the other side

### **Prayers of intercession**

Merciful God,

Give us eyes to see: those who abuse their positions of power, those who are struggling with substance abuse disorders, those who take advantage of others, those who struggle to make it to the next day, those who are hurting, the friends who are struggling, those in the community who are lonely.

Give us a good heart: to speak up and challenge those who abuse their power, to keep those in political office accountable, to support those who are sick or suffer with

---

<sup>4</sup> Reflection written by Rachel Allison

substance abuse disorders, to step in and stop those who take advantage of others, to support those who struggle, to sit and love those who are hurting, to share the burdens of those who struggle, to acknowledge and love the lonely.

Give us a joyful soul: to celebrate the small victories in our daily lives, to be present for the celebrations of others, to be thankful for the days of sunshine, to revel in the rain.

Give us these things, graceful God, and hear the things that rest upon our hearts and minds.

*(Pause)*

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

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

#### **Blessing the offering**

We have been blessed with so much, O Lord.

Today, we take a moment to give thanks for all we have received, and to seek to use our gifts for the building of your Kingdom, for entering into your mission, for the spreading of your love and your peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Hymn:**

256 STF – When I needed a neighbour, were you there? OR

413 STF – Send down the fire of your justice

#### **Blessing**

Go out in peace and seek the Lord,  
Who is calling you into something new this day,  
Something holy, something loving, something peaceful.  
Go out in peace.

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession by Tim Annan

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

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