

# twelvebaskets

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## **EPIPHANY 5A**

5th February 2023

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

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## Opening Prayers

The Spirit of God says 'come'.  
Jesus Christ, the bride of the church, says 'come'.  
Let anyone who hears this say 'come'.  
Let anyone who is thirsty, thirsty for the water of life, come.  
Come, you are welcome,  
The Spirit of God is in this place.  
Come, gracious God, and meet me this day, as I worship you.  
Come.  
Amen.

God of all grace, you have brought me here,  
And here I am to worship.  
For a moment, I have turned aside from the busyness and business of the day, to  
come and meet with you.  
Come into this space – by your grace,  
Inspire me – by your Spirit,  
Challenge my living – with your love.

Show me how to go from here to play my part in forming a better, safer, kinder, more  
Christ-like world.

God of all hope, you have brought me here,  
And here I am to worship.  
I know though, O Lord, that I have often fallen short of your glory,  
I have been distracted by the things of this world and drawn away from your calling on  
my life.  
Come now, O God, by your grace, and forgive me for all my shortcomings.  
*[Pause]*.

Even as I say sorry, I know you have already forgiven me, and for that I am truly  
grateful.

Thank you Lord, for this time to worship you and gather in your name,  
Thank you that by your Spirit I am connected with all those worshipping, all around the  
world, on this Lord's day.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a language or translation with  
which you are most familiar.**

### Hymn:

167 STF – Colours of day dawn into my mind - [YouTube](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

**Readings:** Isaiah 58:1-9a – [Click for reading](#)

### **Responding to the reading**

In Isaiah's vision of a different kind of fasting, we see people sharing food with one another and sheltering under the same roof. Those who have been oppressors are invited to draw near to the oppressed, to use their own hands to untie the cords that have bound them. Those with power are invited to turn away from themselves and their own priorities for reward and acknowledgement, and in offering the gifts they have at their disposal to counter injustice to come into relationship with those who have been marginalised.

What do we hold in our hands today? As an individual? As a community?

Are you using it to serve yourself and your own desire for recognition and acknowledgement, or in the pursuit of justice and peace?

Lots of churches and community groups opened warm spaces this winter, heating our buildings to offer a warm welcome to those who will struggle to heat their own homes due to the rising cost of energy. Here, we have offered what we have – but are we more interested in getting people through the door and into our church, or genuinely standing in solidarity against the injustice that thousands of people cannot afford the essentials this winter?

Perhaps this is the challenge before us this Lent. Instead of thinking about what we might give up, could we consider how we might use what we already have for the building of God's kingdom? How might using what we have in our own hands to seek justice be an opportunity to be distinctive in the world?

Questions to consider:

- What is already in your hands, that you could offer in the pursuit for God's justice?
- What actions could you actively commit to this Lent to step out to the margins and encounter God anew?<sup>2</sup>

### **Hymn:**

255 STF – The kingdom of God is justice and joy - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

May I go out from this place and enter into the flow of love that is at work in the universe.

Living God, show me how to discover that you are already out there, moving, transforming, touching lives and all creation.

Lord Jesus the Christ, travel with me as I go and encounter the Spirit of God.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Reflection written by the Joint Public Issues Team

<sup>3</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week**

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

- Write a note or a message to a friend with a Bible verse in it that you think might be relevant to your life.
- Tell them you're thinking of them, and pray about them as they receive it.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

- Holy God, today I am thankful. I come in prayer, recognising and remembering this day that all I have received is grace, all is gift. I have received so much, and so often I take it for granted. Today, I come with a thankful heart, knowing how richly blessed I am, and seeking to offer gratitude.
- You might like to list the things you are grateful for – go on as long as you possibly can!
- Thank you God. Amen.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

- Find something in your house that is symbolic of your faith. Hold it. Give thanks for the journey of faith that God has taken you on in your lifetime. Ask for God to guide you on your onwards journey.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

- Think about the fruits of the spirit.
- Pick one of them that you don't feel you are very good at, or that needs some intentional work.
- Spend some time praying about this, and then practice it for a whole day in all you do.

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

- Creator God, great shepherd of the sheep, fill me with your hope as I pray. Holy Spirit, give me the strength and courage for this day, fill me with the peace I need, and the joy of being surrounded by your love. Help me to notice where your love is at work in the world, and to get involved where I can. Lord of love, show me what is mine to do today. Amen.

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

- Pour a glass of water.
- Think about the things you do that get in the way of your relationship with God. You might think it muddies the water of your life, but God forgives us for all these things, and offers us living water.
- Drink some of the water and give thanks for the way God reaches out to you with love and forgiveness.