

twelvebaskets

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EPIPHANY 1C

12th January 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

If you have a candle, find it and something to light it with. Put it somewhere you can see it. If you do not have a candle, use a lamp.

As you light the candle, or light the lamp, say these words:

“the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.”

Sit in silence and notice the light and the shadows in the room.

When you are ready, offer this time of worship to God

“Jesus, you are the light of the world, the light of my life, I offer this time to you in worship and prayer and praise. Amen”

You may now wish to say the Lord’s Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today’s reading from the gospel of Luke, we encounter the pivotal moments of John the Baptist’s ministry and the baptism of Jesus. These passages, rich with themes of expectation, purification, and divine affirmation, offer a helpful backdrop to reflect on the nature of God’s grace in our journey of discipleship.

The people were filled with expectation, wondering whether John might be the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. John’s response to this anticipation is to point beyond himself to Jesus, the one more powerful, who will baptise not only with water but with the Holy Spirit and fire.

This John-the-Baptist-move speaks to the heart of discipleship: recognising and affirming that our journey is not about our own power or abilities but about the one who comes to fulfil the promises of God.

Today, take the opportunity to reflect on the areas of your life where you might be relying on your own strength rather than opening yourself up to the power of Christ. How can you more fully embrace the anticipation and fulfilment of God’s work in your life?

The baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan is a scene of humility and divine revelation. As Jesus is baptised, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends in a form like a dove, and a voice comes from heaven: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This powerful affirmation marks Jesus’ public entrance into ministry, blessed with the presence and approval of God. Today you could consider how the symbols of water and Spirit in baptism can continually remind you of God’s grace that cleanses, renews, and empowers you.

John's mention of a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire introduces an aspect of grace that is not only comforting but also empowering and purifying. Fire both refines and transforms; similarly, the Holy Spirit works in us to burn away what is impure and to ignite within us a passionate commitment to the gospel. Grace, therefore, is not just about God's favour but also about transformation. Think about how you have experienced the refining fire of the Holy Spirit in your own life. What impurities need to be burned away? What aspects of your life are being transformed by God's grace?

As you meditate on these themes from Luke 3, let them challenge and inspire you to deepen your relationship with God through a renewed understanding of his grace. May you experience the anticipation of his promises, the cleansing power of his Spirit, the refining fire of his presence, and the joy of living as his beloved.

May this time of reflection renew your sense of purpose and commitment as you walk the path of discipleship.

Responding in music

440 STF – Amazing grace – how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

God of each time and space,
Show yourself to me this week,
That as I seek to follow in your way,
You may guide my feet, and lighten my heart,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 13th January

- Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else. Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?

Tuesday 14th January

- At Twelvebaskets we are grateful for our ongoing link with the Methodist Church's Global Relationships Team and they are inviting us to continue to pray for Haiti as the country continues to face many challenges.
- You might like to use a personal connection or research with Haiti to help shape your prayers, or make use of this webpage from the Methodist Church: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/global-relationships/all-global-relationships-news/please-continue-to-pray-for-haiti/>

Wednesday 15th January

- Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.

Thursday 16th January

- Draw around the shape of your hand. Write on it the things that you're carrying that feel like burdens. Offer them to God in prayer, remembering that God carries your burdens with you.

Friday 17th January

- Find a ribbon or a piece of string. Tie a knot in it, and think of a person you know who needs prayer.
- Tie two more knots praying for two more people. Put the string somewhere you'll notice it throughout the day where it'll remind you to pray for the three people.

Saturday 18th January

- Read this poem "blessing and rest" by Malcolm Guite. Consider the blessings you have received today. Give thanks for them. <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/tag/sabbath>