

# twelvebaskets

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## **EPIPHANY 3C**

26th January 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Opening Prayers

God of all grace,

I am thankful for the example of Jesus who showed each of us how we should all live in this world.

Thank you that when I feel overwhelmed by all that life brings to each of us, you invite us to rest in you. I give thanks to you for your compassion and love to all who feel like sheep without a shepherd, and for whom the brunt of life's disappointments weighs heavy.

Help me too, so that I can offer compassion to others, as well as receive the same when offered. Bring healing and wholeness to me, and all around me, so that I may experience life in all its fullness.

Loving God, help me to know that I am loved, just as I am, by your grace and through your Spirit, no matter what choices we have made or mistakes we live with.

May I come to know more of your presence, here with me today, O God,

Amen.

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

**Reading:** Luke 4:14-21 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

“Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

Therein lies our challenge and our invitation – step out into a world and be people of love. Amongst so much despair and hatred, love is shining all around us and inviting us to see the world differently.

Some of you may well have used 'Emojis' on your phone. If not, let's just summarise by saying these are simple ways that people use to communicate emotions in texts or emails by sending a small cartoon face that appears to represent a particular emotion (for example, very happy, angry, confused or excited).

One of the emojis that gets used quite often (especially in response to cute pictures of dogs, cats or babies) simply shows the person with two hearts instead of eyes. I suppose it is trying to communicate that the person loves what they see, that they think it beautiful and love-filled. Today, that's what I think Jesus in Luke's Gospel is calling us to become – a people with love-shaped eyes, and hearts, heads, hands, mouths, feet and lives.

In this passage, Jesus attempts to lay out his ambitions for his ministry, and they try to kill him. Specifically, it seems, because in bringing the ancient words of Isaiah to life, Jesus

makes it clear that it is never a comfortable position to be at the centre of an institution, or to assume that you are part of the 'in' crowd. Jesus is reminding his listeners that the project of Israel does not exist just to benefit itself or the Israelites, but as a 'light to the nations', as a way of bringing peace and hope to all people. Of showing people how to love.

Can we do the same? Do we, sometimes, fall into the trap of being a church that looks after ourselves, that only exists for the people who are already here? Or are we trying to be a light to our communities, our country, and the nations beyond?

So, when you go out into the world, this week, in the coming weeks and months, may we be a people who bear the love of God: visibly and clearly.

### **Hymn:**

463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past – [YouTube](#)

OR

239 STF – Sent by the Lord am I – [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

As you leave this time of worship, may you go with the courage to live the Jesus manifesto, May you go united to and connected with a whole community of people who are seeking to know the nature of God who is Spirit, seeking peace in a divided world.

Go, by the grace of God.

Amen.

---

## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Come, Holy Lord,  
Come and show your path to me,  
The path towards justice, peace and love,  
The path you have laid out for me.  
Help me to follow in your way, this day, Lord. Amen.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Today, why not use the moments you are washing your hands to think and pray about the areas of your life you'd like to 'wash clean'. It's not a perfect metaphor, but perhaps there are habits, addictions, weaknesses in yourself that you'd like to change. Offer them to God today each time you reach for the hand soap.

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

- God of all grace  
May today be a day when I notice that you are close, O God.  
Help me to see your hand at work in the world around me.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Loving God,  
Today I am grateful. Thank you for this new day and for the opportunities it presents.  
God of all grace,  
Help me to practice gratitude today, and to remember that all I have is gift.  
Amen.

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

- Today marks five years since the UK's membership of the European Union ceased, in accordance with 'Article 50'.
- The debate around Brexit has at many times over recent years reached toxic levels, both in Westminster and in our communities.
- As we find ways to disagree but live together, ways to work across the divide of opinion, today, let us pray for peace.
- Whichever side you voted for – or perhaps you didn't vote at all – and whatever you think now, as we mark the passing of time, can you be a force for unity?
- Pray that you, your community and your political leaders can play a part in working towards unity, in this country and beyond.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

- Lots of cultures and religions recognise the spiritual significance of trees - rooted deep in the ground, drawing strength from an invisible world we can't see, and offering blossom, fruit, shelter and a home to creatures above ground.  
Today, look out for the trees in your community - perhaps you can see one from the window, or go on a walk and notice them.  
What is God saying to you today?