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ORDINARY 19C

10th August 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Living, loving God,
Today, I come to you, giving thanks unto the Lord for you are good.

You wrote the story of my faith into existence.
Why do I turn to empty rituals,
To empty promises and to empty lives,
When I have you to help cast my eyes to fulfilment
To love-filled promises.
To a fuller life.

Help me to choose your way, this day, O God.

Help me to see the impact of what putting my trust in you will do when I turn away from empty rituals.

God, I pray for a genuine unwavering faith and obedience to you over the emptiness of the rituals that tempt me in my everyday lives.

I open my heart and put my trust in you, 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 12:32-40 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In Luke 12, in those verses we've just read, Jesus speaks words of reassurance and challenge: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." He then invites his listeners to live with a radical sense of trust and readiness: "Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus isn't simply offering pious advice, he's inviting us into a new way of seeing the world. A way of living that trusts God's generosity enough to loosen our grip on what we think will keep us safe. A way of life where our security comes not from possessions or status, but from the deep, sustaining love of God.

For many of us, especially in modern Western cultures, this teaching can feel unsettling. We're surrounded by messages telling us that our value is tied to what we own, what we produce, what we can store away for later. But Jesus flips this thinking on its head: true treasure isn't about accumulation, but generosity. It's about investing in what lasts: relationships, justice, compassion, community, grace.

And then Jesus goes further: he tells his followers to be like servants waiting for their master's return, "dressed for action and with lamps lit." He calls us to live awake, attentive to God's presence, ready to act with love and courage. This is not a fearful vigilance, but a hopeful, engaged readiness to meet each moment with compassion and purpose.

For liberal, open-minded Christians, this passage is an invitation to hold our commitments lightly enough that we're free to respond to the needs of others, yet deeply enough that we never lose sight of what matters most. It's a call to cultivate hearts that stay open and hands that stay ready: ready to share, to heal, to build a world that looks more like the kingdom God delights to give.

So today, let this passage challenge and inspire you:

- Where is fear keeping you from living generously, freely, or joyfully?
- What are you treasuring most right now—and is it leading your heart toward love and justice?
- How can you stay “awake” to God’s presence and purposes in the everyday moments of your life?

Jesus’ words remind us that we don’t need to cling anxiously to what we have. God is already offering us a kingdom of love, hope, and belonging. Our call is to live like we trust that promise, freely, generously, and awake to the grace unfolding all around us.

May we find our true treasure in love, and may our hearts stay ready to answer God’s call.

Hymn / song:

455 STF – All my hope on God is founded – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

May you go to find the light shining in the darkness,
May you go to find love overcoming hatred,
May you go to find life shining through everywhere,
And may you come to see what is yours to do, in Christ’s name I pray,
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 11th August

- Today is celebrated in some traditions (most notably Catholicism) as the Feast Day of Clare of Assisi, one of the first followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. She founded the Order of Poor Ladies, a monastic religious order for women in the Franciscan tradition and wrote their Rule of Life, the first set of monastic guidelines known to have been written by a woman.
- Today, let us pray for all who are in leadership positions but may not feel respected because of their gender, sexuality, ethnicity or other category. We pray for courage for them, and transformation of the systems of oppression that keep us divided.

Tuesday 12th August

- Today I pray for your church, across the world and for the church or churches in my community here.
- I pray that each of us would follow Jesus so closely and to trust him so completely, that we would listen and be guided by him, in order to devote our lives to serve God – loving others as we love ourselves.

Wednesday 13th August

- Today is World Organ Donation Day, and we give thanks for all the medical professionals and the willing donors who make life-saving surgery a possibility.
- May it also be a day for reflecting on your own choices about blood donation and/or organ donation? How can your body be used to help others in need today, or in the future?

Thursday 14th August

- Today, seek an opportunity to be still, to find 10 mins totally to yourself, in quiet.
- Use the space simply to breathe, and to notice the rhythm of your breathing.
- Do you hear or sense the presence of God in the stillness?

Friday 15th August

- In giving thanks for the beauty of the created world, Today I lament all the exploitation of the earth, especially where I have been a part of that.
- I pray for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of increased droughts and floods, whose homes and communities are at risk and whose livelihoods are fragile. Amen.

Saturday 16th August

- Look out for something growing today, perhaps in your house, or garden, or in the neighbourhood nearby.
- Take a minute to look at and appreciate it. What thoughts come into your mind?
- Give thanks to God for your own growth, your developing relationship with the divine and how God's love for you continues to grow, even when you don't pay attention all the time.