

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 27B

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 27 - Year B**  
6th October 2024



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**138 STF – O God, beyond all thought OR**

**14 STF – Sing to him in whom creation**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**41 STF – Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful OR**

**782 STF – Thuma Mina**

Readings: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

**Hymn:**

**564 STF – O thou who camest from above OR**

**103 STF – God is Love: let heaven adore him**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**526 STF – Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy OR**

**619 STF – Thanks for the friends who keep on loving**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**347 STF – Crown him with many crowns OR**

**607 STF – When love is found and hope comes home**

Blessing

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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).**

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## Call to worship

This moment is holy,  
This time is sacred,  
This space is precious,  
Let us turn aside from the business and busy-ness of the days and weeks just gone, and all those to come,  
And be present to the here and now.  
God is here, may we notice,  
Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

138 STF – O God, beyond all thought OR  
14 STF – Sing to him in whom creation

## Opening Prayers

Let us join together in prayer,

As we sit here in our churches, homes, in front of our screens, let us take a moment to gather ourselves, close our eyes, quiet ourselves...

We are sorry that so often we rush through our days, under pressure, thinking of the “to do list”, thinking we have to do it all by ourselves, making snap decisions, snapping, not making time for you God, not making time for those we share our lives with. Too quick to judge others, to quick to judge ourselves. Not taking a moment, now we are being offered time, to stop, breathe, listen.

We are made wonderfully and perfectly in Your image. You love us even when we are unlovable. Let us never forget EVERYONE is made perfectly in Your image and that You love those we find hard to love too.

Take a breath, take a moment and hear these words... God hears you; God understands you and your struggle... you are forgiven.

We give our thanks for this offer of peace, rest, space to gather ourselves.

We are thankful for those who keep on loving us even when we feel unlovable.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## Lord's Prayer

*You may wish to use a version you are comfortable with, or if you can include the below responsive version of the prayer on a screen or an order of service, then please make use of this instead.*

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

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Lorna Dobson

Responsive Lord's Prayer:

**Leader:** Our Father, who art in heaven,

**Congregation:** We come to You like children—vulnerable and trusting, ready to receive Your love.

**Leader:** Hallowed be Thy name.

**Congregation:** May we honour Your name by living with humility and grace, welcoming others as You have welcomed us.

**Leader:** Thy Kingdom come,

**Congregation:** Let Your Kingdom of radical equality and love be reflected in our hearts and actions.

**Leader:** Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Congregation:** Help us to set aside our pride and follow Your will with childlike trust and openness.

**Leader:** Give us this day our daily bread,

**Congregation:** We depend on You, Lord, for all that we need—both physically and spiritually. Help us to receive with gratitude and to share with others.

**Leader:** And forgive us our trespasses,

**Congregation:** Forgive us for seeking status and control instead of Your grace. Help us to forgive others with the same generosity You offer to us.

**Leader:** As we forgive those who trespass against us,

**Congregation:** May we let go of division and resentment, embracing unity in Your love.

**Leader:** And lead us not into temptation,

**Congregation:** Guide us away from the temptations of pride, power, and exclusion.

**Leader:** But deliver us from evil.

**Congregation:** Deliver us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, and selfishness, and help us live in the freedom of Your Kingdom.

**Leader:** For Thine is the Kingdom,

**Congregation:** A Kingdom where all are welcome.

**Leader:** The power,

**Congregation:** The power of love and grace.

**Leader:** And the glory,

**Congregation:** The glory of belonging to You, our loving Father, forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.<sup>3</sup>

## All Age Talk

What word or phrase might you use to describe God?

God is not an easy thing, person, being, entity to describe! What pronouns should we use? What descriptions? Wherever you are on your journey with God, whether you have been a firm believer

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<sup>3</sup> Lord's Prayer written by Jasmine Devadson

all your life, or are just beginning (or beginning again) to ask questions about the nature of God and spirituality, it can be difficult to find the words to describe God. Just spend a moment now, turn to the person sitting next to you – or the people either side of you – and see if you can come up with a few words or an image to describe something about God.

What words come into your head when I ask you to imagine God?

*[Allow people time to talk].*

Let's hear some of your ideas...

*[Spend some time talking about some of the words and phrases that are generated: do other people find them helpful, have you got lots of similar words or some that are very different? If there are children and young people in the congregation, pay particular attention to some of their ideas.]*

In churches, and in the history of the Christian religion, people have often tried to make describing God and explaining spirituality a very complicated and academic process. They have used long words, technical terms and difficult ideas to try to get to grips with who God is. Of course, the development of 'theology' (as we call the study of God) is a crucial part of how Christianity has grown and continues to find ways to respond to a changing world. However, we must make sure that we don't make God more complicated than God already is...

Jesus talks (as we shall hear later in our service) about letting the 'little children come to him' and reassures us that unless we 'receive the kingdom of God like a little child', we will not really understand who God is. Perhaps sometimes church is too complicated for its own good?

The Christian writer Marcus Borg told a story about some friends who had a small child and a tiny baby. Their child asked to have a moment alone with the baby and the parents heard the child saying to the newborn: 'Tell me about God, I've almost forgotten what he's like...'

Perhaps we all need to be reminded what God looks like by people we might not expect. Can we look out for God in unexpected places this week, as we continue to learn more about how we can be followers of Jesus in this new church year?

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

### **Hymn:**

41 STF – Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful OR

782 STF – Thuma Mina

**Readings:** Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

### **Hymn:**

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<sup>4</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

## Reflections on the readings

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Before we go into today's message, picture this: A little child running through the park, filled with joy, laughter echoing through the air. This child doesn't care about status, doesn't care about wealth, doesn't care who's watching. They are simply enjoying the moment, living with a sense of wonder, trust, and dependence on those around them. This child embodies openness and vulnerability, not burdened by the concerns of the adult world.

Now imagine how we, as adults, live in a world that demands achievement, status, and control. But what if, just as that child runs free without worry, we too were called to live differently? To trust deeply, to embrace vulnerability, to let go of the pressures of success and instead walk freely in God's grace?

In Mark 10:2-16, Jesus gives us a radical invitation—an invitation to enter the Kingdom of God not by climbing the ladder of status and power, but by becoming like that child.

### The World's Kingdoms and Their Barriers

We live in a world that often determines our worth by what we achieve—how much we earn, how successful we are, who we know. Just as children are often overlooked or seen as insignificant in adult affairs, we tend to value those with power, influence, and wealth, while the vulnerable or dependent are pushed aside.

It was the same in Jesus' time. Religious leaders and wealthy elites were considered important, while children were dismissed. But, much like today, people sought validation through their status in the world's hierarchies. This passage challenges that perspective and invites us to view the Kingdom of God through a radically different lens.

### Jesus Welcomes the Children

In Mark 10:13-16, people were bringing their children to Jesus, but the disciples tried to turn them away. They thought Jesus' time was too valuable to waste on those without influence. But Jesus saw something different in these children. He rebuked His disciples, declaring, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Jesus wasn't just blessing the children - He was making a profound statement. He was teaching us that the Kingdom of God is not for the powerful, the elite, or the self-sufficient. It belongs to those who are like children: humble, trusting, and open to receiving God's grace.

### The Radical Kingdom of God

Jesus' message about children and the Kingdom of God is revolutionary. Children, both then and now, don't measure their worth by status or achievements. They depend on others for care, protection, and provision. They approach life with innocence, trust, and a willingness to receive what is given. This is exactly how Jesus calls us to approach God's Kingdom.

In God's Kingdom, power, wealth, and influence hold no value. Instead, it's a place where everyone is welcomed, no matter their social standing. Children become the perfect symbol for this because they are the ones least concerned with the trappings of power and status.

God's Kingdom is a Kingdom of grace, humility, and equality. It is a place where all are valued simply because they are children of God, not because of what they've accomplished or what they possess. This is a radical departure from the way our world operates.

### Becoming Like Children

When Jesus tells us to receive the Kingdom of God like children, He's asking us to let go of our need for control, status, and self-sufficiency. Instead, we are to come to God with open hearts - just like a child running to their parent with arms wide open - ready to receive His love without hesitation.

This is not easy in a world that teaches us to be self-reliant, to prove our worth through success, and to avoid vulnerability. But Jesus reminds us that God's grace cannot be earned; it is a gift freely given to those who approach Him with trust and humility.

We are called to embrace our dependence on God, acknowledging that we cannot earn our way into His favour. Like children, we need to rely on God's mercy and grace to find our place in His Kingdom.

### **Conclusion: Embracing God's Radical Kingdom**

As we reflect on this passage, let us remember that God's Kingdom is radically different from the world we live in. It's a Kingdom where all are welcomed and valued, not for their achievements or status, but for simply being beloved children of God.

Jesus invites us to enter this Kingdom by becoming like children - vulnerable, dependent, and open to receiving His boundless grace. This is the heart of the Kingdom: radical inclusivity, equality, and love.

So today, let us come to Jesus as children - trusting, free from the burdens of pride and status, and ready to receive His love. And let us, as a community, reflect this radical inclusivity in our daily lives, welcoming all into the grace and love of God.

Questions for reflection in small groups:

1. What worldly measures of success might be hindering you from fully embracing God's grace?
2. How can you cultivate a childlike openness and trust in your relationship with God?
3. In what ways can we, as a community, better reflect the radical inclusivity of God's Kingdom in our church and in our lives?

Let us live like the children Jesus welcomed, and walk in the grace of His radical Kingdom. Amen.<sup>5</sup>

### **Hymn:**

526 STF – Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy OR

619 STF – Thanks for the friends who keep on loving

### **Prayers of intercession**

Today, we will be using a response. At the end of each paragraph, I will invite you to join me in praying 'Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.'

#### **Leader:**

Gracious God, we come before You as Your children, trusting in Your abundant grace and love. As we lift up our prayers, we ask that You hear our cries and answer us according to Your will.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

#### **Leader:**

For the church, both here and around the world, we pray that we may be a community that reflects Your radical Kingdom—a place where all are welcomed, loved, and valued. Help us to break down barriers of exclusion, to stand with the vulnerable, and to extend Your grace to all.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

#### **Leader:**

For the world, we pray for an end to the divisions and hierarchies that oppress and marginalise so

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<sup>5</sup> Reflection written by Jasmine Devadson

many. Give us the courage to speak out against injustice, to work for equality, and to create a world where every person is seen as a beloved child of God.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For leaders of nations and communities, we ask for wisdom and humility. May they govern with compassion, seeking peace and justice for all, especially for the poor, the marginalised, and those without a voice.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, we ask for Your healing touch. Comfort those who are ill, strengthen those who are weary, and surround with peace those who are anxious or afraid. May we be agents of Your love, bringing care and compassion to those in need.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For the children of the world, we ask that they be protected and cherished. Let us learn from their openness, their trust, and their humility, so that we too may receive Your Kingdom with childlike faith. Help us to create safe spaces where all children can flourish.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For our community, we pray that You would make us instruments of Your peace. Where there is division, let us bring unity; where there is loneliness, let us offer friendship; where there is fear, let us share hope. Help us to love our neighbours as You have loved us.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For ourselves, we pray for the grace to let go of pride, control, and self-reliance. Teach us to live as Your children - trusting in Your love, depending on Your mercy, and walking humbly with You every day.

**Congregation:** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

Loving God, we lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your boundless compassion and grace. May we be transformed by Your love so that we may go out into the world as Your hands and feet, bringing Your Kingdom nearer to all we meet.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

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

God of all grace,

We have received so much from you, today and every day.

This day, help us to turn the gifts we have from you into blessings for others.

Come amongst us, by your grace, we pray, and bless these gifts,

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Jasmine Devadson

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



**Hymn:**

347 STF – Crown him with many crowns OR

607 STF – When love is found and hope comes home

**Blessing**

Hope is the gift that drives us,

Love is the gift that fills us,

Peace is the gift that is all around us.

May we take the gifts we have received, and turn them out into your world, O God,

This and every day.

We pray this through Jesus Christ and ask your Spirit to be our guide and inspiration,

Amen.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker