

twelvebaskets

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LENT 1C

9th March 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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

Opening Prayers

Here I am to worship you, O God, to meet with you in the midst of all the uncertainty of the world.

Come, O come Immanuel.

As I sit here in this space you call me to meet the living God, may I remember:

- I am connected to people of faith worshipping in different ways and places.
- I am part of a community of saints that have worshipped for generations.
- I am joined with others across the world choosing to do the same.

Here in this special space where God has been for all time you are free to worship.

So take a moment and give thanks in the quiet places of your heart:

- For all you have
- All you are
- And all you might be.

Pause.

If you feel able speak the following:

All I have, all I am and all I might be I offer to you as I worship – today and always.

Amen.

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

Readings: Luke 4:1-13 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

During Lent and up to Easter, you may wish to make use of the Soul Food resources from the Methodist Church in your personal devotions, including a Bible Study video (around 12 mins long), which acts as a conversation about today's Bible reading.

Find the resources here: methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/

The gospel reading for today is the 'reason for the season', the motivation behind the creation of Lent in the Christian calendar. Jesus withdraws to the wilderness, to fast and pray for 40 days before the beginning of his earthly ministry, and faces temptation from the devil.

So, today, Christians often make an act of sacrifice – giving something up for 40 days – or take up an act of justice or discipleship. Its a time to think about our relationship with God, to release the temptations of life in this world, and to focus on nourishing our souls.

In so doing, Jesus, and modern day Christians, are also thinking back to the time of the Exodus, with the 40 days echoing and – to a certain degree – seeking to redeem the 40 years that Israelites spent in the wilderness. The early listeners to Luke’s gospel would have seen this connection straight away, and seen Jesus’ time in the desert as an offering of redemption and healing for that period of their story.

What do we need redeeming from today? In our own lives, in our local communities, in our country, and in our world? How is Jesus at work seeking redemption and healing for the brokenness, division, exploitation and pain? And how can we join in with that healing process, for ourselves and others?

These are big questions, but they are the sort of questions the Lenten season begins in us. Lean into those questions over the next six and a half weeks as you journey towards Easter. Pray about them. See what moves or is triggered in you. Is God prompting you into an act of healing?

Amen.

Hymn:

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

Blessing

Go in peace, and seek to play your part,
Go in grace, and remember that all is gift,
Go in love, and show that love to every person who you meet,
Go in hope, believing a better world is possible, this Lenten season and beyond.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 10th March

- God of all grace, I take a moment to pray for all the stories in the news today. Holding before you leaders, nations, conflicts, disasters, and those working for a better world.
Come, Prince of Peace, come Lord of Light,
Amen.

Tuesday 11th March

- 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.

Wednesday 12th March

- 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.

Thursday 13th March

- 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.

Friday 14th March

- God of healing,
Come into the places where there is division and pain.
Come and bring the light of your love, I pray. Amen.

Saturday 15th March

- Today it is 6 years since the first 'Fridays for Future' strike, when 1.4 million young people across 123 countries went on strike to protest about the climate crisis and relative inaction from leaders and governments.
- Let us pray for our planet, for all of us as we seek to make adjustments to our lifestyle so we limit our negative impact on the world, and for leaders and those in power as they face the vital decisions that need to be made to limit and mitigate against climate disasters.