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ORDINARY 29C

19th October 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Come further in,
Come further up,
Come into the community of God,
Come and see the beauty of the love, the peace, the joy that we are meant to experience in this life.

There is so much around me that could fill my heart with daily joy,
Though I do not always notice it or remark on its presence,
today I am thankful and I give you praise.

There is much around me that trips and tempts, that gets in the way of wholeness and love.

Though I am sometimes oblivious to my missteps and numb to my own oversights,
I ask for forgiveness and seek your help.

May this time of worship draw me closer to your love, renew my spirits and guide me in your way.

Amen.

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

Reading: Luke 18:1-8 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's verses from Luke's gospel, Jesus tells a parable that's both deeply challenging and surprisingly empowering. It's the story of a widow and an unjust judge.

The widow is vulnerable, without power, status, or protection in her society. The judge, on the other hand, is described as someone who "neither feared God nor had respect for people." He doesn't care about justice, but the widow keeps showing up.

Again and again, she pleads her case: "Grant me justice." And eventually, worn down by her persistence, the judge relents, not because he has a change of heart, but because he's tired of her determination.

Jesus uses this story to teach about prayer, but it's not a lesson in nagging God. It's a story about boldness, resilience, and faith that refuses to be silent in the face of injustice.

This parable speaks to both the personal and the collective dimensions of faith. On one level, it's about bringing our deepest longings to God: not politely or hesitantly, but persistently and honestly. It's about praying with the kind of faith that doesn't give up, even when the answers are slow or the road is hard.

But on another level, this is about justice, not just the kind we long for in our own lives, but the kind we seek for others. The widow becomes a model of holy resistance. She keeps demanding justice, not because the system is on her side, but because she *knows* her

cause is right. She doesn't have earthly power, but she has moral clarity and spiritual courage.

And Jesus is clear: if even an unjust judge gives in, how much more will a just and loving God respond to the cries of those who suffer?

That's the kind of God we believe in, not distant or disinterested, but intimately involved in the work of justice, compassion, and healing. And we are invited not just to pray *about* those things, but to live *into* them.

So today, ask yourself:

- What in your life, or in the world, are you praying for persistently?
- Where might God be calling you to show up again and again, even when the answers aren't immediate?
- Where do you find hope in the face of injustice?
- Are there places where you've grown weary, and where you need to recover the courage of the widow?

This parable reminds us that discipleship takes resilience. As a wise man once told me: if you want to bring about real change, the unit of measurement is decades, not weeks.

Prayer is not a passive act, it's an act of hope, of faith, of resistance. And when we pray with the persistence of the widow, we join the long line of those who believe that God is still listening, still working, and still bringing justice to life.

May we have the courage to keep praying, the strength to keep showing up, and the faith to believe that God is with us—always, and especially in the struggle for justice.

Responding in music – you might like to listen to, or sing along to one or both of these hymns:

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

545 STF – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

May you go from this time and this place with a heart that does not lose hope,
with the courage to keep showing up,
and with the faith to believe that your prayers, your persistence, and your love matter.

May you speak truth with grace, seek justice with compassion,
and trust that God walks with you, especially when the road is long.
And may you know, deep in your being,
that you are heard, you are held, and you are never alone.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

Monday 20th October

- Lie on the floor or on your bed. Place your hands down by your sides, and simply rest there for a while. Breathe in deeply, allowing the air to fill up your belly, then breathe out slowly. Do this a few times, reflecting on all the chaos and busy-ness you are putting to one side.

Tuesday 21st October

- On this day in 1805, Vice-Admiral Nelson (you know, the one with the column!) won the battle of Trafalgar, defeating French and Spanish fleets. This was a famous and crucial victory for the British Empire.
- Today, looking back, we have a more complicated relationship with a history of empire and colonialism, and particularly the church's part in acquiring or supporting structures of power and violence.
- Maybe today, your prayers could be for peace – peace between, and within, nations. May we let go of empire and build community instead.

Wednesday 22nd October

- Holy and gracious God,
Show me how to be a force for good in my community this day. May I see the signs that are invitations from you to get involved in sharing your story of love, today and every day.
Amen.

Thursday 23rd October

- Speak your own name into the silence. Remember you are loved and that God calls you by name.

Friday 24th October

- Take a piece of paper and a pencil. On the paper, draw as many circles as you can, of different sizes. Fill the page with them if you can. Feel free to add colour if you wish. As you draw, reflect on how a circle has no beginning and no end; it is complete, whole and eternal. God's kingdom is like this, with each of us made whole and beautiful, unified in God's eyes. May God encircle you in love today, and empower you to do the same for those you meet.

Saturday 25th October

- 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?