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## ORDINARY 30C

26th October 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

O come, O come, Lord God almighty,  
Come into this moment, by the quiet whisper of your Spirit.

I pause for a moment and listen to your guidance this day,  
Steadying my breathing,  
Quietening my heart,  
And connecting to you.

*[Pause]*

Come and prompt me, guide me, inspire me,  
And help me to go from this time of worship, knowing myself loved by you,  
Knowing myself ready to receive your grace,  
And knowing myself able to work with you and join in with your mission and ministry here  
in this community and beyond,  
Amen.

## Opening hymn / song

570 STF – As we gather, Father, seal us – [YouTube](#)

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

**Reading:** Luke 18:9-14 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

In this parable, Jesus tells a story that would have shocked his listeners.

Two men go to the temple to pray. One is a Pharisee – respected, religious, righteous by every outward measure. The other is a tax collector: reviled, seen as corrupt, a collaborator with oppression. But in Jesus' telling, it is not the respected religious man who goes home justified, it is the one who stands at a distance, beats his chest, and simply prays: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

This is not a story that encourages self-loathing. It's not about beating ourselves up. It's about honesty and humility. The tax collector knows he doesn't have it all together. He's not trying to impress anyone. He shows up in all his vulnerability, and trusts that God will meet him there.

And that, Jesus says, is the posture that opens the door to grace.

The Pharisee, on the other hand, may be doing all the right things – but his prayer is really a performance. He's talking to himself more than to God. He's measuring his worth by comparing himself to others. And that kind of pride, even when wrapped in religion, closes us off – from others, from truth, and from grace.

This parable is a good reminder that humility is essential, not just before God, but in how we relate to one another.

It's easy to slip into the Pharisee's mindset when we think we're the ones who get it right, who are more enlightened, more inclusive, more compassionate than others. And yet, Jesus reminds us: the moment we start using our righteousness to look down on others, we've missed the heart of discipleship.

True faith isn't performative. It doesn't rely on being seen or praised. It begins with the courage to be real: with God, with ourselves, with others. It begins with the humble recognition that we are all in need of grace, and that none of us stand above another in God's eyes.

So today, reflect on this:

- Where am I tempted to measure my worth by comparing myself to others?
- Where might I need to release pride and lean more deeply into grace?
- What does it mean for me to pray: not to impress, but to be honest?

Discipleship isn't about perfection. It's about transformation. And transformation starts when we let go of appearances, and open ourselves to the mercy and love of God that meets us, not because we are worthy, but because we are willing.

May we keep choosing humility, keep choosing grace, and keep walking gently with the God who lifts up the lowly and hears the honest prayer.

### **Hymn/Song:**

367 STF – When I was lost, you came and rescued me – [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

May you go from here with a heart open to grace –  
not because you have all the answers,  
but because you have the courage to be honest.

May you walk humbly, speak kindly, and listen deeply –  
trusting that God meets you not in perfection,  
but in your real, beautiful, vulnerable self.

And may the love of Christ shape your every step,  
lifting you up as you lift others,  
and guiding you always in the way of mercy.

Amen.

# Prayers and Prayer Pointers For This Week

## Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October

- In lots of parts of the country, today is the start of the half-term holiday. Maybe today you might like to pray for all who are travelling, or whose normal routine changes this week.
- If that's you, take a moment to pray for yourself this week.

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

- Light a candle.
- Jesus, you are the light of the world.
- Today, pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus' light might shine divine light into those spaces and places.

## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

- God of all grace,  
Thank you for all that we have received – thank you that everything we have is gift.
- Help me to appreciate all that I have and am.  
Help me to live from a place of grace.  
Come amongst me, God of all grace. Amen.

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October

- Look up a hymn or worship song on YouTube and sit and listen (you could use one of the ones from this Sunday's worship, above, or look for your own).
- Don't do anything else while you listen.
- Let your hands fall to your sides or rest in your lap. Let your mind, body and soul tune into God through the music in prayer.

## Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

- Today, spend some time outside, finding a garden or park, and sit for a while, paying attention to the wildlife that comes and goes around you.
- Give thanks for creation, and the way God expresses something of God's-self to us.

## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November

- Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God.
- What resonates with you? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God.