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ORDINARY 14B

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A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

Jesus calls us, here to meet him,
And we come – from afar or near, connecting together in this act of worship.

We have been richly blessed, and we come to worship the living God, and to filled again with your Holy Spirit.

Amen.¹

Hymn:548 STF Blessed Assurance - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

From the very beginning, you were there God.

In the first moments of creation, amongst big bangs, creative sparks and a divine word spoken, you were there.

At the very end, you will be there, our God.

When meaningfulness collapses, life ends, universes fade and creation stops creating, you will be there, our God.

You are Alpha. You are Omega.

You are A. You are Z.

You are first and last.

We praise you, God of the beginnings and God of the endings.

God of the first breath, and God of the last.

God of the labour pains and God of the dying moments.

We praise you, God of all time, in this moment, this time.

Come amongst us, spirit of the living God.

For our prayer of confession, we are just going to pause for a moment to reflect on some of the ways in which we have not been our best selves, ways in which we have let ourselves down. If it helps you to write, or draw, as you reflect, then by all means do that. Let us just be still for a moment, and reflect on the places where we are not living up to our true potential.

[Hold quiet for a few minutes. You might like to play some quiet reflective music, and it may be helpful to have pen and paper on hand for people to use if they wish or would be more comfortable doing so].

Living God, we want to be better, we want to be our best, for you and for your world. Move within us, transform us, change us.

Challenge and inspire us, by your Spirit, to fulfil your desires for our lives.

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

We are sorry, for all the times we've turned away from that desire, all the times we've let each other down.

And even as we say sorry, we know that you forgive and accept us, you accept us just as we are. We see in you the love we wish to reflect into the world – a love that always accepts, and always hopes for better.

May we be reservoirs of that love, overflowing out into a world in need.

In Jesus' name
Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 - [Click for Reading](#)

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 - [Click for Reading](#)

Mark 6:1-3 - [Click for Reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

For a full edition of this week's reflection, subscribe to The Vine – find out more by emailing thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk

Today is a day of celebration for some of our sisters and brothers across the Atlantic, but may well be an unremarkable day for many in the UK. It's Independence Day! Recounting the story of the independence of America can be heard differently and remembered differently by various people throughout history. As a university student, I, a British citizen, was shown an American cartoon about this historical event by an American lecturer, to see how our student cohort would respond to the way the British were depicted – this was not an exercise in flattery!

How is God using you today? This passage is not an exercise in Biblical flattery, but an invitation to reflect on our place in God's big story. How will we respond?

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray,
God of our hearts ,
Come into our feelings, our emotions, teaching us the art of love.
Show us how to embrace your world and your people, with arms of grace.
Guide us in each moment, that the very impulses of our bodies might be tuned to you.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

² Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

God of our minds,
Come into our thoughts, our intellects, and help us to focus the work of our brains on you.

Show us how to be agents of love in the workplace, at school, in our reading, our writing, our thinking.

Guide us to come to know you more, through the power you have given us in our minds.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

God of our families,
Come into the places we call home, that we might show and discover something about you in our houses, at our mealtimes, in our beds.
Show us how to love each other, and reveal your nature of love to us, through our relationships with those closest to us – our family and closest friends.
Guide us in the difficulties and struggles that come with our family lives, and the suffering of those closest to us – bring them your love.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

God of the Church,
Come into the midst of your people, come to bring healing, to bring unity, to build a movement that can shape the world for good.
Show us how to love each other, to heal broken rifts within churches and between denominations. How to reach out into the world around us, bringing peace, not division, bringing love, and not conflict.
Guide us in our decision making and our worship, our committees and young church, our church councils and prayer meetings, bring the church closer to your design, your hopes for humanity.
We pray for the circuit, for all those looking for a fresh start. Lord, bring your newness, your refreshing and re-charging love. We pray for this church, as your people here begin afresh their journey with you.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

God of this country,
Come into broken Britain, bruised Britain, bringing healing and comfort.
Show your love to those suffering in this country – the elderly, those suffering with mental illness, those without homes, those carrying a disease, those struggling to make ends meet, and those suffering from damaged relationships.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

God of the world
Come into your suffering, unequal planet, bringing peace and harmony where there is war and discord.
Show your love to those who cannot see it this morning – those tied up in war and conflict, battling with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, those struggling with a life of poverty.

God of love, enter our hearts,
And tune your world to love.

God of our hearts - help us to be agents of love across your world, in the way we live our lives, in the people we meet and the situations we hold influence.

Amen.³

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

Blessing

Go and enter into the flow of love that is at work in the universe.

Go and discover that God is out there, moving, transforming, touching lives and all creation.

Go and encounter the Spirit of God.

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by The Joint Public Issues Team

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker