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ORDINARY 17B

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A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

Grace is here to welcome us,
Christ is here amongst us,
The Spirit moves by ways we do not know,
And God comes close, closer than we can imagine.

Come close, Lord Jesus.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

44 STF – Come on and celebrate! - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

This day, Lord of light, we come to encounter you.

We invite you to come and shine in our hearts, to transform us by your love and your grace, that our faces might shine with your glory, that your love might be seen in our eye-contact, our gentle smile, our encouraging nod, perhaps even our tentative embrace.

This day, Lord of light, come amongst us by your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

For our prayers of thanksgiving, you are invited to think of something you are thankful for. Each of us have received so much and, no matter how we feel right now, there is something we can be thankful for. Let's just take a few moments now - what are you thankful for today?

Living God, we are truly thankful. You, O Lord, are the provider of blessings and giver of gifts. We are your thankful people.

And despite all you have done for us, despite all we have received, we have failed you and fallen short of your desires for our lives. We have stood with the apostle Paul when we have done and said the things we wish we hadn't, and regret the missed opportunities to do and say the things we wish we had.

We'll hold a moment of quiet now, in which you are invited to reflect on your mistakes and regrets from this past week, offering them to God in prayer.

[Hold quiet for a minute or two]

Living God, you accept us just as we are, you welcome us into your presence, no matter what we have done or how we have let you down. Thank you for your forgiveness for us and for continuing to use us for your glory.

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

We bring all our prayers in the name of the Creator God, the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 – [Click for reading](#)

John 6:1-21 – [Click for reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

The full reflection from All We Can (allwecan.org.uk) is included in The Vine Resources – email thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk to find out if your circuit is subscribed.

Have you ever had unexpected guests at a meal time? Imagine having five thousand people turn up for Sunday lunch. If you were suddenly asked to provide for thousands of people would you react like Philip or Jesus? Would your practical mind work out that this would be an expensive meal and one that you certainly couldn't afford? Or would you calmly trust that all you needed was already there?

In this story, Jesus shows us how extraordinary things can happen. Jesus takes an ordinary amount of food and changes it into something remarkable.

What about you? Where are the 'ordinary' moments in your life, that could become extraordinary? What are the 'ordinary' things, practices, habits, life-choices, resources, relationships that you have...which might be (or become) extraordinary? How can we use the 'simple' things that we have to help make the world a better place?

Let us pray.

O God of all,
You bring life and transformation
And offer us the gift of joining in partnership with you.
All over the world, we see change beginning,
we see ordinary things and ordinary people having an extraordinary impact.
Show us how to demonstrate your generous love in all we do,
Give us hearts that overflow from you,
Living God, we pray that change will begin here, in this place,
We pray that change may begin with us.
Amen.³

² Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

³ Based on the reflection written by All We Can

Prayers of intercession

Leader: Heavenly Father,

We pray for the students and teachers in our communities.

We bring before you the children who will be able to access education because of the extraordinary gift of a bike.

Leader: Lord of transformation,

All: Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We pray for those who are living in poverty in our midst. We pray that the work of All We Can and their partners would break the cycle of poverty in Uganda and bring change.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

Help us all to fulfil our God-given potential. May these bikes be a starting point for children to live life to the maximum and see their hopes and dreams become a reality.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We pray for our heads of government and those in positions of power. We ask for them to be motivated to eradicate injustice and inequality.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We thank you for the NHS and the amazing staff that keep it running. We pray for communities like Butagaya where access to healthcare is difficult and limited.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

We thank you for the opportunity to keep learning and growing. We pray for the young people in Butagaya learning to be bike mechanics and pray that these skills will help sustain them and give them security.

Lord of transformation,

Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary

Amen.⁴

Hymn:

615 STF – Let love be real, in giving and receiving - [YouTube](#)

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by All We Can

Blessing

May God help us to steer our lives towards him,
May he use us to break the cycle of poverty
And keep the wheels of transformation turning.
May Almighty God bless you and guide you on your way,
Amen.⁵

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker