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## ORDINARY 15C

15th July 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Take time to find something in your home that you hold as precious and important. It may be a photograph, a flower or personal item. Whatever you choose consider:

- What is it that makes it important to you?
- What memories does it hold?
- How do you feel about it and what would happen if you lost it?

Now imagine that God is holding you as precious and important:

- Loving and caring for you and your unique character
- Following your journey of faith
- Wanting never to lose you

When you feel able put down your object and pick up again these written words.

Come then to worship, knowing that whatever you offer in this moment is precious and important.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation that is familiar to you.**

**Reading:** Luke 10:25-37 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

The parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is one of Jesus' most famous teachings, and for good reason. It's a story that cuts through religious obligation, social boundaries, and moral loopholes, bringing us face-to-face with the heart of discipleship: love in action.

It all begins with a question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And when Jesus responds with the commandments to love God and love neighbour, the questioner, like many of us, wants clarity. Wants limits. "And who is my neighbour?" he asks – hoping perhaps for a manageable answer.

But Jesus doesn't give him a list. Instead, he tells a story that turns expectations upside down.

A man is beaten, robbed, and left for dead. Two religious figures, people who might have been expected to help, pass by. Whether out of fear, busyness, or a desire to avoid ritual impurity, we don't know. But they keep walking. And then comes a Samaritan: an outsider, someone considered unclean and suspect by Jewish society. And it's the Samaritan who stops, tends, carries, and cares.

The power of this story lies in its disruption of boundaries. Jesus refuses to define "neighbour" by proximity, religion, or social acceptability. Instead, he reframes the question entirely—not "Who is my neighbour?" but "What does it mean to be a neighbour?"

This story challenges us to expand the circle of our compassion. It's not enough to love those who are like us, or those we find easy to care for. Jesus calls us to recognise the humanity and the dignity of those we might otherwise pass by or overlook.

Discipleship, in this story, means crossing the road. It means choosing compassion over convenience, risk over respectability, love over law.

It's a powerful reminder that grace doesn't stay in the safe places. It moves toward the wounded. It takes time, spends resources, and gets its hands dirty. And it asks us to do the same.

So today, let this story sit with you. Ask:

- Who have I been walking past lately?
- Where might I be called to cross the road in love?
- And how can I live out a faith that makes being a neighbour more important than simply knowing the right answers?

Jesus ends with a simple command: "Go and do likewise."

May we have the courage to follow, not just in word, but in compassionate, grace-filled action.

## **Responding in action**

Today is marked as Action for Children Sunday in the Methodist Church, and is a day for remembering that – although the UK is one of the richest countries in the world, many people in our communities, cities and towns are living in poverty.

Action for Children is a UK children's charity created to help vulnerable children and young people and their families, with its roots in the Methodist church, and which continues to operate across the country providing practical and emotional care and support, to children affected by poverty and injustice.

Across our nation, there are many charities working in this space, tackling homelessness, ensuring people receive enough food to live on, standing up for those who have been neglected or overlooked by the state. These charities are vital and do amazing work, and thank you to the many of you who support charities like Action for Children.

And yet we know this is not right. We know this is not how God would want things to be. We know it is injustice.

The Methodist Church is committed to playing our part in seeking to end poverty – one of the priorities for the Justice Seeking Church is helping the church to find what is 'ours to do' in this space. If you are interested in finding out more about this, do speak to your minister or take a look at the Methodist Church website – we all have a part to play, and what could be a better application of the Good Samaritan story?

## **Hymn / Song**

404 STF – God's spirit is in my heart – [YouTube](#)

611 STF – Brother, sister, let me serve you – [YouTube](#)

## **Blessing**

You have made a holy space in the midst of this day,  
You have noticed the work of the Living God,  
You have joined with others around the world who are worshipping God today.  
Now, go out into the world, and live that life of worship as you go,  
With the Spirit of God going before you.

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

- Find a moment where you can get sight of the sky. (It can be in real life or through an image you have) Let your mind wander and imagine who else might be looking up at the sky where they are. Consider the vast expanse of the sky. The many places it covers and the people who see it. Thank God for the gloriousness of the whole earth and all the people living under its sky.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

- Since 2023, the 15<sup>th</sup> of July has been marked by the EU as Victims of the Global Climate Crisis.
- Today, let us hold in our prayers all who are affected by the changing climate, recognising that most of the blame lies with wealthy countries whilst most of the effects are felt by those living in poverty.
- Bring hope, in the midst of this disaster, we pray. Amen.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

- God of all grace,  
Show me how to bring love into my community today.  
Show me how to be a person of safety, sanctuary and encouragement to those around me.  
Come, by your Spirit, Amen.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

- Today is the saint day for Pope Leo IV, who was Pope in the ninth century, which offers us a reminder to pray for all our religious leaders today.
- For the current Pope, still early in his leadership, for senior leaders in our own traditions, for all who feel the responsibility of power and the calling of ministry and seek to find a balance between these often-opposing forces in our world.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

- Pour yourself a glass of water. As you do so give thanks for its easy access, its cleanliness & its restoring properties. Pray for those where access to water is limited or impossible and feels like a luxury. Pay attention to what you might do in your life that might help those in places where water is a scarce commodity.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

- Attention to your hands:
- Spend a moment with your hands on your lap. Hold them open before God. Reflect on whose hands you have held in yours, the people you have shaken hands with, the gentle touch of friendship you have offered and received. Rest in the blessings of those encounters and give thanks.