

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 14 June 2026

Trinity 2

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. In this week's edition, we will be exploring the calling and the sending of the Twelve. We see why Jesus chose to send out his core team to practise what he has been doing in the towns and villages of Galilee. We ponder what it would take for these twelve ordinary men to do such extraordinary things in Jesus' name. How can their calling and sending inspire our living faith?

Do enjoy pondering this!

Every blessing,

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Our opening verse is an invitation to ponder our calling and sending, and to sense the Father – Son – Spirit's love for us.



God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.
I've been born again in Jesus' name.
And in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.

Carol Owens

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Prayers and Reflections
for use at home on Trinity 2
Calling and Sending

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,
I place my hopes and dreams,
my fears and concerns,
into your safe and loving hands.
Enfold me with your love,
make my heart beat in time with yours;
in Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, reflect on the words of this chorus.

He said: 'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'

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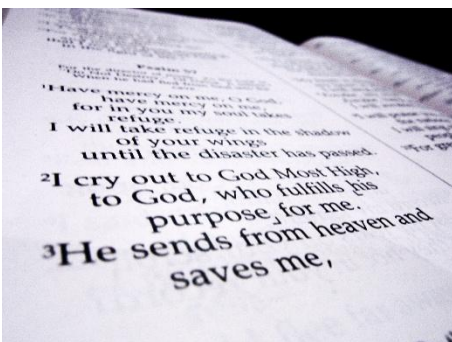
*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.
Feel God's forgiveness.*

This beautiful verse goes to the very heart of our calling as Jesus' followers and our sending too. First, it invites us to pause to recall who Jesus is to us and what we have received from him. On Trinity Sunday, during the service at Overstone, one of the prayer spaces invited us to look at a display of items representing Jesus' roles. Take a moment to ponder these roles. Which ones speak to you of who Jesus is and what you have received from him?

- Crown = King
- Bowl and Jug = Servant
- Cross = Saviour
- Parables = Teacher
- Heart = Friend
- Peace Stone = Prince of Peace
- Sheep = Shepherd
- Plasters = Healer
- World = Kingdom Builder



When Jesus sends us to go and live out our faith in our daily lives and to share our faith with those who touch our lives, it is an invitation to pass on what we have received from him. We can only share what we have been given. It is this idea that gives us the confidence to share the joy, the peace, the love and/or the hope that knowing Jesus gives us.



All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name.
And in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to.

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PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

(The Collect)

Across our villages and the worldwide Church, this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle of prayer to our God who loves us with an unbreakable love.

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our prayer echoes what we have just been exploring. Our going in Jesus' name is in the power of our faith in God who is Father, Son, Spirit to us, and our deep awareness of all that God has done for us. We can only go if we are filled with love and thankfulness and if we can sense God's presence with us and within us. Our sending depends on us being in tune with the God who loves us and who forgives us.

Secondly, our prayer is for us to grow in our appreciation of how much God loves those of our family and friends, neighbours and colleagues who have yet to find their way into church. No one should feel unworthy of God's love and of his salvation. For he loves and wants to forgive them. All it takes is for them to have the courage and the openness to take the first tentative step towards him. God loves it when someone we know and love wonders if there is a God! Ponder who God is placing on your heart. Hold this person in your prayers.



God gives us life in Jesus' name,
he lives in us in Jesus' name.
And in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his peace as he told me to.

Carol Owens

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Jesus sends out the Twelve

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Calling and sending...

Our reading begins with Jesus looking out at the crowds, visualising the towns and villages who have still to hear his good news and say 'Yes!' to the God who is calling out to them in love. It is a huge task. It is one which even Jesus cannot do on his own. He needs to call – train – send disciples to build on what he has already done. It is a reminder to me, and to each of our PCCs, we can only do what God equips and resources us to do. And... it is good to be part of a team.

Jesus has been doing such amazing things – teaching the thousands, responding with authority to the criticism of the Pharisees, calming storms, healing the sick and raising a dead girl to life. Some of this is within our own capabilities as humans. Others are amazing miracles, pure miracles, signs of the power of prayer and the power of God at work. And now, Jesus sends his core team to do the same as him. Imagine being Simon or Matthew or Thomas. How would you feel as Jesus told you to go to the towns and villages to teach and preach as he has done? Nervous, but OK? But what about the miracles? How would you feel about going to heal and cleanse and restore to life?

Does it feel impossible? I am sure that you are not alone in this. Jesus, probably, saw twelve scared and shocked faces. It is then that he says those words which link us to this week's hymn: 'Freely you have received, freely give.' It is a call to remember all that Jesus has done for them through the power of God at work in him. They will think of their calling, of the Lord's love and friendship, of those moments alone with Jesus listening and learning, and of the miracles that they have seen him do thanks to his at-one-ness with God's will for his ministry. They will take all of this and more with them as they go from village to village. It will be the key to the success of their first mission without Jesus.

It is a call to pray and pray and pray again. It is a call to us to pray too.

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have won for me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

*St. Richard of Chichester
(1197-1253)*

OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Lord Jesus, you looked at all the people who came seeking your help, your good news, and you were filled with compassion. You felt called to bring God's love to them. Lord, fill me with the same compassion...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you looked at the Twelve. You saw the possibilities in them. It is reminder that everyone has God-given skills and life experiences.

All have worth. Lord, build up those who have yet to find their calling...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you sent your core team to go and heal the sick, calm the distressed, and bring joy to the grieving. Bless, Lord, those who are called to be doctors, nurses and carers. Strengthen, I pray...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

O God, you search me and you know me,

all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,

you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.

Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**