‘Worship at home’
November 15th 2026



We come to worship God in whose abundant love and grace we flourish.
As you come to worship, you are invited to bring **a piece of paper** and **a pen/pencil** as an aid to prayer.



Opening:
We give thanks to God
who welcomes us here in love.
We give thanks for God’s abundant grace.
We give thanks to God who calls us
and empowers us to share love with others.
Come, let us worship God!

Reflect on the past week.
How did you share God’s love and grace with others?
Did you do so intentionally,
or is this simply part of who you are?

Matthew 25:14-30

The kingdom is also like what happened when a man went away and put his three servants in charge of all he owned. The man knew what each servant could do. So he handed five thousand coins to the first servant, two thousand to the second, and one thousand to the third. Then he left the country. As soon as the man had gone, the servant with the five thousand coins used them to earn five thousand more. The servant who had two thousand coins did the same with his money and earned two thousand more. But the servant with one thousand coins dug a hole and hid his master’s money in the ground. Some time later the master of those servants returned. He called them in and asked what they had done with his money. The servant who had been given five thousand coins brought them in with the five thousand that he had earned. He said, “Sir, you gave me five

thousand coins, and I have earned five thousand more." "Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

Next, the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, you gave me two thousand coins, and I have earned two thousand more."

"Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

The servant who had been given one thousand coins then came in and said, "Sir, I know that you are hard to get along with. You harvest what you don't plant and gather crops where you haven't scattered seed. I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!" The master of the servant told him, "You are lazy and good-for-nothing! You know that I harvest what I don't plant and gather crops where I haven't scattered seed. You could have at least put my money in the bank, so that I could have earned interest on it." Then the master said, "Now your money will be taken away and given to the servant with ten thousand coins! Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken from those who don't have anything. You are a worthless servant, and you will be thrown out into the dark where people will cry and grit their teeth in pain."

Contemporary English Version

Where do you see yourself in this story?

Where do you find God in this story?

What does it prompt in you?

How do you respond?



This is another of Jesus' parables; stories which sometimes had multiple meanings and often ended with a surprise. They challenge our assumptions, and often give us more questions than they do answers.

We sometimes use the phrase, “use it or lose it”. On the surface, this parable rewards good stewardship and punishes the servant who was perhaps lazy, or fearful, or unfortunate. However, the image of God that Jesus expresses is not of a harsh and greedy landowner who punishes faithful servants and wise stewards. This story might remind us that love is a gift, not earned or deserved, which multiplies and overflows with abundance. When we fear losing what we have, we tend to hoard or hide it to protect it: when love is hidden or buried it stagnates. However, when we generously share what we have with others, we flourish, and love grows.

What do you hoard or hide?

What might you be fearful of?

How do you share God’s love with others?

In what way might that be risky?



Risk

To laugh, is to risk playing the fool.
To weep, is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out to another, is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings, is to risk exposing our true selves.
To put your ideas, your dreams, before the crowd is to risk loss.
To love, is to risk not being loved in return.
To live, is to risk dying.
To hope, is to risk despair.
To try at all, is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken,
Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing,
does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow,
but they simply cannot learn, change, feel, grow, love, live…
Chained by their attitudes they are slaves.

Only the person who risks
Is free.

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caring admin music praying
listening practical skills talking
helping others drama providing transport
preaching encouraging finance



We are called to use our gifts and not to hide them away. On your paper, **write down three of <u>your</u> gifts, skills or talents.** Consider each of these, and how they might be used to show God's love and grace to others.



Pray for:

- opportunities to show God's love using your gifts, skills and talents, with wisdom and courage to do so
- new beginnings in difficult circumstances
- justice in relationships between masters and servants, or where there is unequal power
- wise stewardship of our world and its resources
- people who live in places of conflict and war, for peaceful resolutions

Closing: A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half -truths, superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation,
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed
for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war,
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them,
and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you will do the things which others tell you
cannot be done.