



## Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12th, 2024

### The Fig Tree Worship Resource

#### ***Call to worship & Lighting the Candle***

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With so many stories  
and so many questions,  
**we come to worship you,  
God who calls us by name.**

Disciples of the risen Christ,  
filled with joy and wonder,  
**we come to worship you,  
God who calls us by name.**

Send your Spirit to be with us,  
here as in all places,  
now as in all times,  
to inspire, comfort and disturb us.  
**We come to worship you,  
God who calls us by name.**

*Light the candle - Christ is with us.*

#### ***Acknowledging***

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Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional  
Custodians of these unceded land and waters. We  
pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.  
As First and Second Peoples walking together, we  
commit ourselves to be people of the covenant,  
listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

#### ***Singing - Sing praise to God TiS 110***

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#### ***Prayer***

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Praise to you, God of all creation;  
**flowing from our lives  
in endless streams of love.**  
*pause*



Praise to you, God of all things past;  
**joyful presence  
in our memories and before us.**  
*pause*

Praise to you, God of all that's to come,  
**hopeful midwife  
of unimaginable possibilities.**  
*pause*

God, you know everyone's heart.  
You know our delights. You dance in our joy.  
You know our secret fears and sadness.  
You know our longings and our struggles.

Come to us now, in your mercy.

Take from us  
the things we need to lay down.

Create in us a new heart  
that delights in your ways.  
Let our words, thoughts and actions  
be revelations of your goodness.

*(good time of quiet)*

Followers of the risen Christ,  
know that you are loved and forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

#### ***Passing the peace***

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May the Peace of God dwell with you:  
**and also with you.**

#### ***Listening***

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Read: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 &  
John 17:6-19

For these words of faith  
and for Jesus the Word  
**Thanks be to God.**



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#### **Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth**

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##### *Jesus' prayer*

Something that always gives me goosebumps and makes me feel privileged is when people whom I respect pray for me. I find this a profound experience, it humbles me and gives me worth, it usually gives me the courage to carry on, it reinforces my faith and is very, very special.

In John 17, Jesus is praying for us, he is interceding on our behalf with God, whom he calls Father. This chapter is not instructions for our behaviour, we have the privilege of overhearing a prayer for all disciples, then and now. Jesus entrusts the hope for the future of his disciples to God in prayer. In this section of John, The Farewell Discourse, Jesus makes promises to his disciples and then entrusts their future to God. As they overheard this prayer for themselves, so we as we read this passage now, overhear the prayer for ourselves.

This is important because, although not giving a direction for behaviour, it gives an insight to understand ourselves in the world. Our life as a community rests in and depends on God's care. This lies at the core of our faith, God cares for our community, God cares whether we exist, we have the same relationship to God, as Jesus did while he was on earth. This is a parent child relationship. Jesus is asking to God to continue the total love gift, which he gave to his disciples, to give to us. I remember standing with a very small bundle of grandson and suddenly being overwhelmed with love, tears ran down my face as I realised how much love I had for this child. I believe that is the love God has for us and I am overwhelmed.

We are the community for whom Jesus prays. Jesus commends us to God's care and kindness. Jesus is bold enough to hold God to God's promises: "You have given, you have sent, you have loved; now keep, sanctify, let them be one." In this prayer, Jesus opens up his relationship with the Father to include the community by

calling on the character and identity of God, which is known to him and in which he desires the community to share. There is an intimacy in this prayer, the confidence Jesus demonstrates of God's presence. Jesus demonstrates in praying for us, that this intimacy is to be strived for, we can be confident of God's presence and then live to demonstrate this confidence.

The wonder of this prayer for me is, that Jesus has given my future and our future as community into God's care, that is the strength of Jesus' love for those disciples who overheard the prayer and for us who read it. God's care is so complete that day to day life in this world is possible, God cares about everything that happens and it is in God's care not mine. Jesus has placed us totally in God's care and God's love and care is complete forever. Jesus' prayer is that God, Jesus, and the faith community will truly be one in love.

#### ***Singing - Jesus call us! TiS 589***

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OR: Make me a channel of your peace TiS 607

OR: We are your people TiS 468

#### ***Offering***

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Everything we have comes from you, God of all. Bless these offerings that we bring, and bless our lives. May all that we have and all that we do, point to your kindness and show your love, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

#### ***Notices***

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Next Sunday the church celebrates *Pentecost*. Many people make a point to wear something red-coloured as part of that celebration.

#### ***Prayers for World & Community***

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*There's a simple sung refrain through this prayer, You might like to change the words 'my' to 'our' 'I' to 'we', and 'me' to 'us'.*

***Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer TiS 741***



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God of life,  
hear our prayer for the world.  
We pray for people in positions of leadership.  
May they exercise their power with humility,  
always working for the greater good,  
always seeking the path of healing and peace.

#### **Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are grieving,  
unable to make sense of life,  
aching at the loss of loved ones,  
or loss of identity, or home,  
or health, or meaning.  
May they know your comforting presence  
in the deep absence.

#### **Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are struggling  
to feed their families,  
to keep them safe,  
to access medical care,  
to see the future with hope.  
May they find a welcome place,  
a gesture of kindness, a light in the dark.

#### **Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are imprisoned,  
body, mind or soul,  
locked in or locked out.  
May they be befriended, included, released.

#### **Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer**

Sent by Jesus into the world,  
we pray for the places, people and situations  
that are especially on our hearts at this time:  
(time of quiet prayer)

#### **Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Singing - Holy Spirit, go before us TiS 420**

OR: Guide me O thou great Redeemer TiS 569

#### **Blessing**

Go with hope in your hearts  
and joy in your lives.  
Go knowing that you are loved  
and do your best to share that love.  
Go, and walk the path of life.

And may the blessing of God;  
Holy One in Three and Three in One,  
Be upon you and within you  
Today, tonight and always,  
and all the people say, **Amen.**

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