



Sunday October 20th, 2024 The Fig Tree Worship Resource



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Mark 10: 43b - 45

*... whoever wishes to become great among you
must be your servant,
and whoever wishes to be first among you
must be slave of all.
For the Son of Man came not to be served
but to serve
and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Holy Spirit,
be present with us in the time of worship.
Give us open ears, minds and hearts
and help us to walk humbly,
in the way of Jesus,
for the sake of the world you love,
Amen.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians (please include the name of your local First Nations people) 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 - Jesus calls us here to meet him TiS 477

OR: Stars and planets flung in orbit TiS 186 - sing it to the tune
- PRAISE MY SOUL TiS 134

Prayer

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honour and majesty,

wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

you set the beams of your chambers
on the waters;

you make the clouds your chariot;

you ride on the wings of the wind;

you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.

**You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.**

You cover it with the deep
as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder
they take to flight.

**They rose up to the mountains,
ran down to the valleys,
to the place that you appointed for
them.**

You set a boundary
that they may not pass,
so that they might not again
cover the earth.

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

*The Fig Tree Worship Resource comes to you from the Friends of the Fig Tree, Uniting Church in Australia
with blessings and permission to use the content in worship services with acknowledgement.*



Sunday October 20th, 2024

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

God of all, we confess that, like James and John,
there have been times when we tried to make
ourselves look important, when we have gone
out of our way to stake out a place of honour at
the table, when we have put ourselves at the
head of the queue at the expense of others.

Forgive us

Forgive us and give us humble hearts.

(pause)

God of all, we confess that, like the disciples,
we have allowed ourselves to be divided by
anger, instead of being united in love. We have
given in to envy and jealousy, turning inwards
instead of looking out for each other.

Forgive us

Forgive us and give us humble hearts.

(pause)

God of all, we confess that, like so many before
us, we have missed opportunities to serve others,
because we were so focussed on serving
ourselves. We have not shared the abundance
we have been given, but wanted more. We have
not cared for the earth and all things but greedily
taken when we thought we needed.

Forgive us

Forgive us and give us humble hearts.

(pause)

And even so, you sit us down, again,
teaching us like your children, to share,
and to care for each other,
and you forgive us
and give us the chance to turn things around
to face your way of loving-kindness,
to walk humbly with you,
Thank you, Amen.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Job 38:1-7, (34-41

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

How willing are we to accept Jesus' teaching?

Think for a moment, which teachings of
Jesus do you follow? Now think again, which
teachings do you really follow? Jesus asks his
disciples, and therefore us to surrender all our
ideas of honour, power and weakness. Who do we
honour?

In the culture of Jesus' time the honour
system was important. It stood for your position in
society, a social rating determining with whom
you may speak, interact, it gave you a place in
society. This system was respected and the status
it gave people was defended. Jesus challenged
this.

We might say that there is nothing like this
today. It may not be so clearly stated but it is
there. Status comes with wealth, occupation,
nationality, where you live and level of education
(even places of education attended). It is judged
by your car, your clothes, perhaps even the code
of football you follow or team. Do we still have an
honour system, even in the church?

Jesus asks us to surrender our ideas of
honour. All people are the same in God's sight, all
are equally loved and forgiven. This is challenging,
but it gets harder. We are asked to change our
ideas of power.

So Jesus called them and said to them,
*"You know that among the Gentiles those whom
they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and*



Sunday October 20th, 2024

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, (Mark 10:42-44).

Disciples and those given leadership roles, are not those who have power but who serve, and they are prepared for their positions through sacrifice, tough times, through “baptism and the cup”. Jesus is preparing himself for sacrifice and preparing his disciples for their roles in the early church.

Power in our society is exercised so often through violence and threats. It can be the loudest voice or the biggest promises, or fear induced through descriptions of what the other might do. Fear of what we might lose if the other party wins, not what benefits those who need it most. How will leaders serve, not just ourselves but those in need, the homeless and destitute, the environment, the whole of creation? Instead of asking, “what’s in it for me?”, can we ask, “how can I serve?”

The third concept we are asked to surrender is our idea of “weakness”. Weakness-giving in easily, not fighting back, surrendering, not sticking to your opinion, becoming a slave to all. What Jesus asks us to demonstrate and who we are to be is frequently seen as weakness. Jesus asks us to take a place in society where we serve, where we don’t seek power or wealth for ourselves but serve the kingdom of God, working to create a world where there is justice, where all have their essential needs met, creation is cared for so that the needs of future generations are met.

Jesus turned the ideas of society of the times upside down with radical suggestions and actions. He healed the outcasts, the women, he noticed the needy and spoke out, he called his disciples out.

What honour and power do we hang on to? (And we all have these). How can we serve, not in easy ways but seriously? As Jesus did, can we

renounce our greatness, our power over others to be in service to all?

Singing - Brother, sister let me serve you

TIS 650

OR: She sits like a bird, TiS 418

Or: Among us and before us Lord, you stand TiS 259 - can be sung to SURSUM CORDA TiS 87

Offering

What we bring is already yours, God of all:
our time, our gifts, our money, our selves.
Help us to be a servant of love
wherever we walk, wherever we are,
in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Notices

Oct 24th is United Nations Day

Oct 24th - 30th is Disarmament Week

Prayers for World & Community

God of all, we do not have to look very far to see the corruption of power and privilege and the destruction that it causes on lives and on this planet. Our greed and hunger exceeds imagination and causes immeasurable pain and irreparable loss

So we pray;

We pray for ourselves, that we might be wise and humble enough to see where we stand, to acknowledge our complicity and to change our ways. May we walk lighter, with loving-kindness towards all.

We pray for those around us, that together we can be a force for forgiveness, healing and renewal. Bless our churches and gatherings of people of all faiths and lead us into harmony of action.

We pray for those who are invisible, sleeping rough or in overcrowded housing, locked away in



Sunday October 20th, 2024

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

prisons or restrained by systems and abusers.
May they be seen.

We pray for those who work under inhumane
and unjust conditions because they have no
option. People caught in oppressive systems of
slavery, impacting life and family, for the benefit
of the tyrants. May they find release.

Bless those in power with wisdom.
Bless those who have eyes of wisdom,
with the power to speak.

Bless those in power with humility.
Bless those who walk humbly,
with the power to keep going.

Bless those in power with compassion.
Bless those who have hearts of compassion,
with the power of inclusion and love.

Bless us all as we bring to you
the people and places on our hearts today:

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 - How great thou art - TiS 155

OR: Kneels at the feet of his friends TiS 640

Blessing

Go knowing that you are loved.
Go to serve and to be served.
Go in the strength of wisdom
and the power of belonging.

And may the blessing of God
Holy One in three, three in one,
pour down over your heads,
and fill every part of you
with peace, Amen.

Reflection: Rev. Moira Dodsworth
Wattlebird Ministry Team
Drouin, Trafalgar, Yallourn Nth.

Liturgy & Editor: Rev. Jennie Gordon
Shearwater Ministry Team - Cowes
revjenniegordon@gmail.com

