



Sunday February 9th, 2025
The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

As a people of God, we come fishing
for help and inspiration

**All: We try in the normal places,
but without luck**

**You call us to trust you,
to try, out further again,
In trust and faith, we look in hope.**

**You call us to follow, to fish people for you:
Catch us too, help us to be faithful.**

**We come to worship you,
hook, line and sinker.**

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded lands and waters. We pay respect to Elders past and present. 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 - Holy Holy Holy TiS 132

OR: Let all creation dance TiS 187
Bring many names TiS 182



Prayer

You stun us God, with your generosity,
amaze us with the brilliance of your creativity
confound us with the openness of your grace
and blow our minds with your spirited love.

You invite us to join you,
to be part of your family,

held close and loved dearly.
For all this our hearts ache
with the will to respond and to echo your nature
in our living.

Our humanity, God,
seems inadequate for the task,
but all the same we turn to you in trust.

Deal first with our fears,
the things we excuse ourselves with,
from being bold in our loving
or apathetic in our doing.

Ease us out of our anxiety,
tamp down our fear, as we take grace filled risks,
We often wonder about our faults, ...

confident to wonder in your presence,
and then to accept
that these too are covered completely
by your grace.

May all these words of our prayers
and the meditations of our hearts,
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

Be glad then,
if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away
see everything has become new!

Don't fear! Christ has called and is faithful.
Christ will save all.
Amen. All our thanks to God!

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Isaiah 6:1-13
Luke 5:1-11



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Response to the readings:

When it all seems too hard
and it's easy to give up:

Help us drop our nets in the deep.

When the harvest is scarce
and the needs are great:

We will drop our nets in your deep.

When we hear the Word calling for disciples
and speaking to our hearts:

We respond in faith, in hope and love.

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

There are two verses in the Isaiah reading that are probably familiar to us: *Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory* from traditional communion liturgies and then “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” and the reply “Here I am; send me!” Both are part of a much longer, dramatic calling of Isaiah. For us, as Christians, they are part of our life as Christians, the start of our journey is a call, then we come regularly to the table in community to remember our call and to continue our journey of following Christ.

In this year, during Epiphany, the idea of call comes up regularly, today with Jesus and the fishermen, in Luke. Call is about having a sense of purpose in life, and importantly being aware of our gifts and talents and then connecting them with a need in the world. I wanted to be a teacher from an early age, I would line up my dolls and teddies (my brothers wouldn't oblige) in a classroom and teach them, with books and pencils and a naughty corner. I was fortunate to have a few inspirational teachers, and I learnt I would never be out of a job and would have good holidays so it all fitted. This was my choice to use my gifts and talents, finally I heard God's call to teach in a very different way and am fulfilled in this vocation.

But many students, I discovered, had no idea of “what they wanted to do”. Money is all

important, perhaps following parents or just what is on offer are all good reasons for a career! But a purpose, of using gifts and skills which provide satisfaction are far more likely to lead to a happy and fulfilled life. God's call to us, provides this.

Jesus was standing on the shores of the lake, the crowd pressing around him to hear the word of God, so we presume Jesus has been teaching and suddenly he stops. He sees two fishermen washing their nets, two people about their ordinary jobs and he gets in the boat. God's call is unpredictable, related to their talents – they are now to catch people, to draw them to Jesus but unmerited they have no experience and show no virtue for this new calling.

Jesus tells them to go out into the deep water, but we've already been there they say, a call is not always what we want or where we want it and can often involve deep water. The fishermen put down their nets and they caught so many fish their nets were about to burst. God provides in abundance when a call is followed. Simon, like so many, says he does not deserve what God offers, he is a sinful man, as are we all, but he finishes the fishing job, leaves everything and follows Jesus. Isaiah says: *Here I am, send me!*

But of course, as with all “calls” there are limitations, following God's call means living by Jesus' teaching, there will be an abundance of our “needs” but perhaps not our “wants”. God requires a reversal of our proprieties and our commitments, leaving everything to follow but the rewards are a sense of purpose, a community, hope in the future and above all relationship with, and the love of, the one who is the source of love.

Singing - Your words to me are life and health TiS 430

OR: **Holy Holy Holy - TiS 764**
 Jesus calls us - TiS 589



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Offering

As you call to us, Jesus of the shoreline, we come to you with all that we are and all that we have. Bless these gifts we bring, and bless our lives, that you might use them, and us, for your purpose in the world. Amen.

Prayers for World & Community

Creator of wonder and diversity beyond our small imagining; you, gracious God are the generous giver of all good things.

Rain and sun, water and warmth, refreshing and giving life. Making our world fruitful and calling us to echo your patterns. You give justice and truth, food for the hungry, rest to the old and energy for the young.

We pray for people who are hungry, thirsty, struggling to survive, that the rest of us might find ways of sharing what we have: ...

We pray for people who are homeless, stateless or trapped in detention, that we might find ways of opening hearts and doors: ...

We pray for people who are living in the midst of brokenness; of bodies, minds, relationships, lives and livelihoods, that we might find ways to help bring wholeness. ...

We pray for people dispossessed of land, culture, language, rights and identity, that we might understand the impacts of colonisation and walk with respect in the way of justice and covenant, listening and learning. ...

We pray for people who are experiencing the aftermath of catastrophic events; volcanic eruption, tsunami, landslide, earthquake; that we might find ways of sending assistance, bringing help, holding grief, rebuilding lives. ...

We pray for people who might be invisible, the outsiders, the forgotten people on the edges of

our towns, cities and communities, that we might see them as brothers and sisters and join them at a table of welcome. ...

We pray for all living things on this planet; threatened species, those pushed out of habitats by greed and development, the effects of a disrupted ecosystem and a damaged planet, that we might learn to live lighter and restore balance,....

We pray all the prayers of our hearts for people we know and people we have heard about; friends and strangers, family near and those across the globe. ...

.. we pray Jesus, as Jesus calls us to join you in your mission of loving good news to all, with his words:

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 - I, the Lord of sea and sky TiS 658

OR: Thine be the glory TiS 380

Blessing

As we go, let's remind ourselves:
that it's not we who chose Christ,
but Christ who chose and called us.

That we were not here because of our goodness,
but because of Christ's grace,

That we don't enlighten ourselves,
but seek to allow Christ to enlighten us.



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That we do not go our separate ways alone,
but in the company of the Spirit
who has great things in store for us.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God,
be your blessing, today and always
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All: **in the name of Christ. Amen**

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