



Sunday February 16th, 2025 The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Through the life and death
and the resurrection of Christ,
God called into being a new relationship with us.

One without boundaries
that allows us full access to God's love and will.

Today God calls us again
to be part of this relationship
through unity in Christ.

Let us respond gladly to the presence of Christ
among us. Let us worship God.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land
and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning
the *(please name the people on whose land you
gather)* People, the Traditional Custodians, have
blessed this place through their law and customs,
their care and concern. We pay respects to their
Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for
the future of their communities. May we walk
gently and respectfully on this Land.

Singing - TIS 744 Refresh My Heart

OR: TIS 638 O Christ the healer we have come

Listening

Read: *Jeremiah 17:5-10 (responsively)*

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert

and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the
wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

**They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.**

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
**in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.**

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

**I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.**



Prayer

We are here Lord to renew our commitment to
your way for the whole of creation. We settle
ourselves again into this space that reminds us
that we are part of generations of people who
have committed themselves to walk in your ways.
Thank you that we are part of that walk, the path
that acknowledges your longing for life and
liberation for all people. Let us remember again
that when you are with us, all things are possible.

Forgive us if we allow the immediate issues of our
own lives to overwhelm your constant call to
reconciliation and justice in your name.

Forgive us if we sometimes fail to remember the
graciousness and spaciousness of your love.

Forgive us if we see our discipleship as small and
insignificant in the world.

Forgive us if we continually find fault in others
instead of acting out of the fruitfulness that is in
our own hearts.



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Infuse again our lives with your presence. That our enthusiasm be rekindled, our vision and readiness renewed, and our lives equipped to carry out your will, in love and gracious compassion. Amen

Hear then again Christ's constant reassurance to us – our sins are forgiven

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: 1 Cor 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

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

Reflecting - Rev Deacon Wendy Elson

JOY IS YOURS

Blessed are those who find it hard to believe,
those who struggle with doubts.

Blessed are those who find it hard to be inspired
by anything.

Blessed are those who are curious and wonder
about things a lot. Those who have more
questions than answers.

Blessed are those who know more people who are
not of faith than those who do.

Blessed are those who say that they have little to
give, but give it anyway.

Blessed are the children who make noises and
expressions and are not subtle when they are tired
and have had enough.

Blessed are the teenagers who challenge us to see
things anew, who refresh and drain energy in
equal parts. Blessed are all kids for their fresh
perspectives and their desire for justice, for things
to be fair.

Blessed are the older folks who have given out all
their lives but keep on giving, who pray and serve
and offer themselves time and time again.

Blessed are the parents and families, those whose
lives sometimes seem on full spin. Bless those
whose experience of family is not so good, and
those for whom family is a flexible arrangement.

Blessed are those whose experience of family is
painful, those who have difficult birth
experiences, those who yearn, and those who
grieve the loss of what they thought was the ideal.

Blessed are those who mourn, those with grief
which is 'new' and those who carry older griefs.
Bless those who are adjusting to change when life
didn't look like they thought it would.

Blessed are those who feel forgotten, those who
are lonely and think no one cares.

Blessed are those who are poor in heart, and
blessed are those who are simply poor.

Blessed are those who are marginalised, those
who wear labels doled out to them such as
addicted, incarcerated, unemployed, homeless.

Blessed are those who struggle with disability,
perhaps the condition itself but also with the
views of others around them on their condition.

Blessed are those who are tempted to give up,
those who feel betrayed and cheated.

Blessed are those who self-harm, take risks and
give in to despair.

Blessed are those who do their best to bring hope,
who feel that their best is not good enough, but
try anyway.

Blessed are those who have messed up and can't
find redemption. Those who find it hard to forgive.
Themselves and others.

Blessed are those who do jobs that go unnoticed.
Those who wash dishes in cafes, clean toilets in
office buildings and shopping centres and parks.
Those who do work some would shy away from.
Blessed are the sex workers and the rehab staff
and the washers of linen from the hospitals.



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Blessed are the politicians and the bureaucrats, the supermarket shelf packers and the backpackers. The first responders, the educators and carers.

Blessed are those who seem to do everything the hard way. Blessed are those who can't seem to find approval or self confidence. Those who are wrongly accused. Those who are refugees. Those who are foster kids and foster carers.

Blessed are those who feel burned out and used up.

Blessed are those who show kindness in traffic, even to those they feel have driven inappropriately. Blessed too, are those who stand up to the bullies and get involved.

Blessed are those who show mercy, live out their faith daily and share the good news favouring actions over words. Those who live out of their humanity rather than greed and making profit.

God bless those who show mercy and take a stand for justice, those who yearn to see the river of justice flowing freely. Bless those who take the costly path of following Jesus.

Blessed are those who forgive me, (even when I don't forgive myself) and challenge me, who accept me as I am but also help me to grow.

Jesus walked beside people, loving them and healing them, feeding and blessing them.

Jesus came down to our level, to be in Divine conversation with humanity. It is easy to imagine here, that Jesus' arms are held wide open. This is Jesus who knows vulnerability and grief and sorrow. This Jesus WAS God's beatitude, God's blessing to us in a world which struggles to recognise him.

Rejoice and leap for joy! You are loved beyond measure. (Oh, and try to keep in the Blessed section rather than the Woes).

**(written with a nod from Wendy to Nadia Bolz-Weber who wrote a similar list)*

Singing - TIS 681 Lord let me see more and more

OR: TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness hope for despair

OR: TIS 599 Take my Life

OR: TIS 1 Happy are they who walk in God's wise way

OR: TIS 697 All the sleep should have a place to sleep

Offering

Be with us now gracious God as we bring these offerings today. Refresh us so that we learn again how to live a life balanced with the celebration of your gifts to us. Let us pass these gifts in hope, peace and joy. **Amen**

Notices

Day is done

A LENTEN INVITATION - from Rev. Jennie Gordon.

Come on a Lenten journey through 40 days of poetry and wondering, with weekly expeditions into the sacred text. It's not a study, it's a journey. Where will the Spirit lead you? Where will you find yourself?

Sarah at the Synod Comms Unit has done a great job with designing this photocopyable ebook.

It's free and downloadable from:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/>

If you want to get in touch, or join an online group during Lent, please email me: revjenniegordon@gmail.com.

Prayers for World & Community

We are so thankful to be here today Lord, in the group of people praying together in your name. We remember that you call us to be servants of joy, and so we commit ourselves to pray for those who find it difficult to find joy today:

those who are lonely and have no sense of belonging. (silence)

those who are wounded and can only feel distress and pain. (silence)



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those who are disoriented and frightened by their circumstances, homelessness, war, violence and dispossession. (silence)

those who have never found people whom they can trust, and live in a world of shame and fear. (silence)

those who are impacted by loss and sorrow and are struggling to reorient themselves in the world. (silence)

those who are isolated by sickness, illness or infirmity and are longing for a restoration to health. (silence).

Open us up gracious God, to the recognition that these things are happening in our communities as well as communities across the world. Sweep away our defences of reserve and inhibition to allow us to trust that our prayers will find space in your longing for restoration of this world.

Make us truly the people of your name, ready to respond to your call until our living reflects your purpose.

And let us join together again in that prayer that draws us together:

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 - TIS 256 Servant King

OR: TIS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

OR: TIS 380 Yours be the glory

Blessing

This is the moment
for which we are called together.

Poised to leave this gathering enriched
by the strengthening we have encountered
by being in community.

Reminded again
of how discipleship in Christ's name
is our shared vision.

Let us go forth to live
in the peace and power of God.
In the name of the Creator,
the Redeemer and the Sustainer.
Amen.

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