



Epiphany 7 - Sunday February 23rd, 2025

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Take delight in the Lord
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord:
Trust in him and he will act.

from Psalm 37

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 - Let all creation dance TiS 187

OR: Come O God of all the earth TiS 181

OR: Praise with joy the world's creator TiS 179

Prayer



Lord of creation, we sit in awe of your greatness,
We delight in the wonder of all you have created
We remember all you have given us,
We trust your wisdom and your justice.
We praise you.

You show us the way
Forgive us when we do not follow;
We do not always understand
your timing or justice,
We want to see change quickly but,
Those who wait for you shall inherit the land

Forgive us our impatience.
We become angry when
the wicked seem to prosper
And the powerful are rewarded but,

The meek shall inherit the land.

Forgive us our arrogance and belief in ourselves
You are our refuge, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

We are loved and forgiven in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 &
Luke 6:27-38

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

Reflecting - Rev. Fee Morrison

In Luke's sermon on the plain, after we have heard the blessings and woes, we move this week to how we should live in community, the ways we should as groups of faithful people should operate as a group.

This is a very hard text, it's not meant to be easy. As a community we should place importance on forgiveness, that works together to love enemies even if I can't love them, the rest of my community can, till in time I can.

It resonates with our reading from Genesis of Joseph's story, which is all about how God brings reconciliation, bringing family members back together into a new future and new possibilities. How is God active in reconciliation, are we allowing God to be active in the reconciliation of our community between people who do not get on?

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As I said this is not an easy task but Psalm 37 reminds us to ground ourselves in the delight of the Lord, use this as our basis this will give us grace and hope for living our Luke 6 in our communal life.

Jesus is saying these things to those who are ready to accept Jesus' call, "I say to those of you who listen".

Luke is emphasising that love is not just a sentiment of feeling but an attitude leading to concrete action, much easier if we could just leave it as a feeling. The call is for us as disciples to embrace mercy – do as God would do! Jesus' response is do good to those who would do bad to us – do as God would do!

As we come to our last Sunday of Epiphany we are reminded that the inbreaking of God into the world makes a difference, it should, we hope as a community of faith – make all the difference in how we respond to people.

The call of Jesus in Luke is to live in a way that is contrary to our human nature, as we live out the good news of God as Jesus in the world with the hope of the resurrection to sustain us. This faith we have is a way of life, a way that is contrary to our natural inclinations. To answer hurt with forgiveness, which is only possible because Christ is our hope.

God came to us humans, as a human in Jesus, to reveal God's purpose, to love us all, not just as a baby in a manger but to teach us a more compassionate way of living. Let us as communities of faith live out God's mercy and love.

Singing - This is a day of new beginnings

TiS 653

OR: TiS 683 God when human bonds are broken

OR: TiS 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you

Offering

As people of God
We bring ourselves,
all that we have and who we are.
Bless our offerings
Use us and them as you will.
Amen.

Notices

February 28th is Clean Up Australia Day for schools.

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?

This ebook is free and downloadable from:
<https://victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/> under Lent 2025 Resources. If you want to get in touch, or join an online group during Lent, please email me: revjenniegordon@gmail.com

Prayers for World & Community

Loving Lord, we come to you with our prayers,
we come as your people, trusting that you are in control of our world, that you hear our prayers and understand our needs.
We hear your word "love your enemies"
And so we pray:

For those who hate, hatred leads to violence and those who are the objects of their hatred and mistrust - individuals, other cultures or creeds. Help us to love and show the example of your love.

For those who use violence, may they see this is not the way and may we show the example in loving those who offer us violence in actions and words.



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For those who suffer from violence in homes, schools, workplaces and war and for the peacemakers.

We pray for our country, leaders who prepare for elections - may they be positive in their campaigns, generous to the opposition and seek what all people need, grant them insight into ways of creating community with generosity and long-term plans.

We pray for lands and people who are suffering under harsh weather conditions, heat and floods. We pray for those who work to repair bridges and roads, support workers who provide the needs of those who are in danger and put themselves in danger. We pray for wisdom in trying situations for leaders, workers and individuals.

We pray for our church, leaders who must make hard decisions, small churches battling to see a future, communities who reach out in love. Gather them all into your loving care.

We pray for our communities; may we share and love and create places where you are visible in our actions and words.

We pray for ourselves, those we love, our concerns, may we love our enemies. We join in the prayer Jesus taught us:

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 - Make me a channel of your peace ***TiS 607***

OR: TiS 648 Help us accept each other
OR: TiS 382 Now the green blade rises

Blessing

Love your enemies:
Do good to those who hate you;
Bless those who curse you;
Pray for those who mistreat you.
Know that salvation is from the Lord, find
courage and strength in the love and security
that we are promised.

May God, creator, redeemer and sustainer be
with you every step of the way.

Amen.

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