



## ***Sunday July 6th, 2025***

### ***The Fig Tree Worship Resource***

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

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Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his name.  
His anger is but for a moment,  
his favour for a lifetime.  
Weeping may linger in the night  
but joy comes in the morning Psalm 30  
Let us worship God  
**Amen**

*Light the candle - Christ is with us.*

#### ***Acknowledging***

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*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 life. 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 - Come O God of all the earth*** ***TiS 181***

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OR: How good, Lord, to be here TiS 234  
OR: We are your people TiS 468

#### ***Prayer***

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Lord, creator of all, we thank and praise you  
for all we have, all you have given us.

Loving Lord, we come before you in wonder,  
thankful that we have been called into  
relationship with you ,

grateful for all we have,  
for our communities,  
family and friends  
the places we live  
days of wind and rain but also glorious sunshine  
homes to shelter in,  
food on the table  
We are blessed.

#### *Time of quiet*

We know we are imperfect,  
we ask your forgiveness  
for the times we do not recognise the stranger  
and show love,  
for times when we disregard creation  
through selfishness,  
for times when we do not recognise the miracles  
around us, everyday.

Help us to be the people we can be  
through your love and grace.

**Amen**

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

#### ***Listening***

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Read: Galatians 6: 1-16

#### ***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: 2 Kings 5: 1-14  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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



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#### **Reflecting - Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson**

How inconvenient!

Sent.

"But I am comfortable, God. My fire is warm and my toast is hot and I can't be far from a coffee shop.

Please can you see if you can find 70 others to go and keep me as a back up at least? That way if other things come up, I can make them into excuses. If I can't go, there will be someone who will fill my spot. I will go another time. When the weather is better and my cup is fuller.

And don't send me without my bag, what am I going to put my things in, you know my mobile phone and computer tablet are necessary, a few things for contingencies and some chocolate bars for if I get hungry. Spare socks?

No sandals!! What about my good walking shoes and a spare pair of thongs. And don't tell me the labourers are few, that is not part of my concern, I will just do my little bit from home."

It's tempting to skip past the bits we don't like but this reading makes it really clear that we are all called, all summoned to serve and all sent by God. And then when we do listen to the call, we are not given power for its own sake, but rather we are given grace. I hear verse 20 as saying, 'Don't get all excited that you can do these amazing things, but realise it is all down to grace which is given and shared.' And in this you can rejoice because you too are included!

These passages make it very hard to rest on our laurels, to act like God is not calling US, RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW. Certainly, some of us have difficult circumstances but yet we are called. It's a really scary world to go into just now, but yet we are called. And the first thing, in following, is to let go, let go of all we hold onto so tightly and trust that God's provision is sufficient. That may be the hardest part of all. Especially for

us as individuals and actually even harder for us as churches. I do wonder if this is Jesus' pattern of an institutional church, he models structure but without the holding on. It's a 'form into a team and just get on with it' kind of model.

In this world that seems crazy right now, being sent feels like a big thing and I wonder how we are sent and how we might fulfil our calling. There are some hints here.

In the 2 Kings reading Naaman had to let go. He had a very clear idea of what healing would look like and the form it would follow. Until he let go and took the leap nothing was going to change. And the Psalm tells us that there will be tough times but that rejoicing is inherently connected to the experience of wrestling and struggle.

How might these readings enlighten, and be enlightened by, the Galatians reading? Restoration through gentleness, bearing each other's burdens, testing our work, not deceiving ourselves by thinking we have all the answers and are more than we really are. In this world which seems out of control right now, where heresy seems to be acceptable and actually admired, a few things here stand out. God will not be mocked, and we reap what we sow. If what we sow is to benefit ourselves we will reap corruption. But if it is to benefit the Spirit, the Kin-dom, the common-wealth, it will reap life. We are to model this, living as sent people who speak truth boldly. The question 'What is truth?' seems a bit fluid just now, and the gospel seems to be sadly distorted depending on who is using its texts. But Truth must always be backed by the action of loving others, of serving one another in love and grace and mercy. If these are missing, if the fruits of the Spirit are not here, be not deceived. (Galatians 5:22-23- The Spirit Fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

So, if you feel weary, remember there is life in sowing for the benefit of serving God and the family of faith, in knowing yourselves to be sent to sow for these purposes. Nothing else matters, let it go. No other forms of legalistic



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expression, forms of church that may hold you to a certain type of experience, no doctrines and dogmas about what your faith must look like on the surface. Peace and mercy are yours and the grace of Jesus rests upon your spirit. Let go and trust God. You are sent and equipped by the one who loves you more than life and the grace of this One is sufficient for your needs. Your mission (should you choose to accept it), your sending purpose, is to live out of this faith, hope and love. And share it.

On ya bike then, time's a wastin'!

### ***Singing - Brother, sister, let me serve you TiS 650***

OR: Comfort, comfort, TiS 647

OR: An upper room TiS 536 (especially if you are celebrating the Lord's Supper)

### ***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***

It's NAIDOC week! - what is going on in your community and how will you engage with it?  
<https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

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

Loving Lord, we come to you with our prayers,  
we come as your people,  
trusting that you are present in our world,  
that you hear our prayers  
and understand our needs.

As we look at the world,  
we know that wrong decisions have been made,  
and we pray:

for those who lead  
and do not see a way of love instead of violence,

for those who seek power for what it gives them  
not the good they could do,

for those who do not see  
the unconsidered results of war, of greed,  
of injustice,

for ourselves when we, sometimes unthinkingly,  
support these actions.

We pray particularly for the Middle East.

We ask your comfort and care  
for those who suffer and grieve,  
those who worry  
about all that is wrong in the world.

For the peacemakers, the healers, the carers,  
the ordinary people  
who try to make the world a better place.

We pray for the people of our church.  
For those who make decisions  
those who teach,  
those who are carers,  
those who make music and prayer,  
those who do the jobs that go unnoticed.  
For all who have heard your call  
and follow your journey.

We pray for our community  
The healthy and the sick,  
tired and energetic,  
old and young,  
may they find you where they need you.  
We thank you for answered prayers.

We pray particularly for ..... (name those in your community)

We pray for those who care,  
those who keep us safe.  
For the stranger  
who provides unexpected love and solace.



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We pray for ourselves,  
the needs deep in our hearts  
that we dare not say aloud.

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

***The Lord's Prayer***

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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 - Let us talents and tongues employ***  
***TiS 537***

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OR: Send me Jesus TiS 749

***Blessing***

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We are your people  
Go out listening to and being obedient to  
God's unusual call on your life.

Listening for the unwelcome instructions.  
Knowing God goes with you.

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

**Amen**

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