



Sunday February 8th, 2026

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Have some salt and a bowl of water, candles and a sand bowl for the Prayers of the People.

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

From Matthew 5:13 - 16

You are the salt of the earth,
but if salt has lost its taste,
how can its saltiness be restored?

**It is no longer good for anything
but is thrown out
and trampled under foot.**

You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

**People do not light a lamp and
put it under the bushel basket;
rather they put it on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.**

In the same way,
let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Spirit of life, come to us in this time,
enthuse us as salty disciples of Jesus
who flavour life
and shine the light of love
at all times and in all places.
And all the people say: **Amen.**

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 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 - Gather us in TiS 474

OR: Lord of creation TiS 626



Prayer

God of all,
thank you for the gift of life,
for the waking, walking, working, playing,
eating, sleeping life we are given.

You have reached out to us in Jesus,
who continues to call us to follow,
being salt and light as his disciples.

You have sent the Spirit,
as companion and comforter
to make sure we don't lose our way,
and to bring us back when we wander off.

We take a moment to bring our gratitude
for the blessings we enjoy.

A time of quiet

We also bring our confession;

Many times we have chosen
to be bland and blend in, afraid or apathetic,
too distracted by things that don't matter,
unsure about bringing your salty justice
to season the table of plenty
in case it spoils the party.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Too often we have hidden our light,
failed to shine and illuminate
the evil that grows in the darkness.

We have switched off our ears and eyes

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to the cries of the earth
to the suffering of people
to the violence of hate and greed.

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

We have pretended to be innocent bystanders
when suffering screams at us
through screens and in our presence,
because we are afraid.

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Forgive us,
and set us free to be your people.

Season us again with your love.
Light in us the fire of your justice.
Bind us together as people of faith,
standing strong, being salty,
bringing your light,
wherever it may reach. Amen.

Siblings in Christ,
Be assured. You are forgiven.
Now, live as if you believe it.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
Matthew 5: 13-20

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

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

*You are the salt of the earth
You are the light of the world*

The “you” in these sentences is emphatic and plural. We as the community of God do not and cannot generate saltiness and light. God is the source. These qualities are given to those who follow Jesus. They come from God and we have them because of our faith.

Thinking of salt and light in this way may give us a different way of looking at this passage. It did for me, as I had always thought of these sayings as being a command to be salt and light; it was about how I behaved and thought, actions rather than a state of being. You are light and salt, not you must try to be.

In this passage the disciples are called to live out the reality that is created in discipleship. We are called to live out the new reality of the kingdom of God in righteousness.

Recently while undergoing surgery, I had some blood tests done and my salt levels were low. I was surprised at the anxiety this caused, haven't we all been told to lower our salt levels, what was this panic? I could no longer drink plain water but had to have electrolyte drinks and maybe my kidneys weren't working..... Within a few weeks, I was back to normal, but I learnt that salt was essential to my body working.

You are the salt. We (disciples) need to be here, *just being* makes a difference.

Yes, the things we do in loving, caring, looking after others and the world are important but we are the salt. We are essential to God's kingdom here on earth. We are the light, *just being* isn't all it is but we are shining out to show God's kingdom. We don't have to try to be. We are the light.

Many of us are doers. We think we must be busy loving, caring, doing God's work and filling any community needs, actions and sharing of ideas. That's what community is, but the idea of *just being* can remove some of the stress,



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some of the trying so hard to be disciples. We are and if we let God work through us and be in us, the kingdom is seen and its absence is noticed. Like not having enough salt.

We live the new reality, being light and salt in righteousness. This is not the “law” as so often understood. Jesus comes to fulfil the law and shows a radical new way of living. Jesus’ teaching is about our inner ethics, the knowing what is right and wrong without a list of rules. God’s will is different. It sets apart those who truly understand the kingdom, who have an inkling of wisdom, a glimpse of what the goodness of God is.

We are the salt, the essential flavour. We are the light that we cannot live without and cannot turn out. We live the new reality of righteousness that we learn through faith, following Jesus’ radical message, using ethical imagination to change ourselves, our communities and the world, because we are salt and light.

Singing - Lord Jesus, we belong to you

TiS 686

OR: Loving Spirit, loving Spirit TiS 417

Offering

Here with our gifts of money, time and goods, we offer you ourselves, again, O Source of all that is. Bless these things and bless us. Continue to remind us that we are salty and light-filled for your purposes, for the sake of the world you love, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Notices

Feb 13th marks the anniversary of the 2008 National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18th. Have you planned a Pancake Day fundraising event for *Uniting*? Details here:

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/fundraising/pancake-day/resources/>

Here’s a prayer from 2022 for Ash Wednesday that you can update with current prayer points.
<https://uniting.church/ashwednesday/>

You can journey through Lent with *UnitingWorld*. Sign up here: <https://unitingworld.org.au/join-us-for-lent-event-2025/>

Prayers for World & Community

Invite people to participate in the prayers by placing some salt in the water bowl (representing tears of grief or joy), or lighting a candle when they feel moved, maybe saying a few words, or in silence.
*Leave some good spaces.

From Psalm 58:6, 7 & 10

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

If you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

God who loves us and makes us in your image
salty and light-filled, for the sake of the world,
the earth, the sea, the sky.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who hunger;
for food

for justice
for release from whatever binds them
for love.

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God who loves us and makes us in your image
salty and light-filled, for the sake of the world;
the earth, the sea, the sky.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are homeless;
the broken ones,
the lost ones
the rejected ones
the victims of disasters.

*

God who loves us and makes us in your image
salty and light-filled, for the sake of the world;
the earth, the sea, the sky.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are naked;
unclothed through war or poverty,
exposed by lies,
vulnerable to persecution,
harmed by exploitation.

*

God who loves us and makes us in your image
salty and light-filled, for the sake of the world;
the earth, the sea, the sky.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our kin,
the siblings we connect with and those we don't,
our local community,
our shared humanity,
all creatures and critters
on land, in sky and water.

God who loves us and makes us in your image
salty and light-filled, for the sake of the world;
the earth, the sea, the sky.

Hear our prayer.

As 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 - God of freedom, TiS 657

(can be sung to the tune PICARDY TiS 497)

OR: Community of Christ TiS 417

Blessing

Live your life bright,
full flavoured,
in the sway of God.

Be unashamed
in seeking irrational reconciliation.
Practice unequivocal truthtelling,
and outrageous generosity

Love without reserve, account or return.
Love the unlovely.
Love the enemy.

Live your life bright, full flavoured,
in the sway of God.
That is your foundation
and your destiny. Amen.

*Reflection: Rev. Moira Dodsworth
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