



Sunday April 19th, 2026

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Come amongst us, risen Christ,
as we gather,
as we listen, pray, sing
and break bread.

Open our eyes to you.
Set our hearts on fire with your love.
Come and walk beside us,
then stay with us.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Singing - In the presence of your people **TiS 727**

Acknowledging



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 - You are holy, you are whole, **TiS 753**

OR: At the dawning of salvation TiS 392

Prayer



Eternal God,
We praise and thank you for the gift of your Son,
crucified, then raised by your loving power,
who is with us to the end of time.

Lord Jesus, we exult in your deliverance;
you bring us from darkness into light,
from despair into living hope,
from gloom to joy.

Through the Spirit you come alongside us,
and give us understanding of the Scriptures,
and our hearts warm to you,
and when you break bread with us,
we know you as the very Bread of Life.

We worship and adore you.

Lord Jesus you journey with us in true fellowship,
present to us
in every time of temptation, doubt and need;
as our Saviour
whose grace is sufficient to us, always.

May we know this in our hearts by faith
and live to praise and serve you,
we ask in your name.

Blessed is God forever, Amen.

*Rev. Ron Gordon
Dad & Daughter - 2012*

**Gracious God, we confess
that we have sometimes walked away,
full of fear, full of doubt, full of shame.
Feeling unworthy of your deep and abiding love.**

**We have closed our ears to your cries,
echoing around the world.
We have closed our eyes to the sight of you;
bereft, bedraggled, hungry, hurting...**

**We have closed our hearts,
quenching the flame of faith
with the gushing waters
of whatever else catches our eye
and turns our heads.**

**Forgive us.
Meet us on the road.
Stay with us.**

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From Acts 2: 38 & 39:

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls..."

Hear the promise,
you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God Amen.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Luke 24:13-35

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

Reflecting - Rev. Anneke Oppewal

Most, if not all of us, will be familiar with the story of the walk to Emmaus. It is a beautiful, gentle story about two friends walking home after some very eventful and disruptive experiences, deep in conversation, trying to make sense of what has happened and wondering about what lies ahead.

Somewhere along the way they are joined by someone else, a third person, who helps them process their thoughts and shows them a way forward. By the time they reach their destination it is getting dark and they urge the stranger to stay with them. They prepare some food and as they sit down to eat they realise their guest is the resurrected Jesus himself, offering them hospitality and nourishment as he explains the scriptures and breaks bread with them.

Journeys, travel, people moving from one place to another, is a recurring theme in the gospel of Luke and its sequel, the book of Acts.

It begins before Jesus' birth with Mary, his mother, travelling from her home in Nazareth to see her aunt Elizabeth. Later, she travels with Joseph to Bethlehem and gives birth in a stable. As a boy of twelve Jesus travels with his parents to the temple, and later, as a man, he travels all around the country with his disciples until finally ending up back in Jerusalem.

In the book of Acts we find Jesus' followers journeying on, from Jerusalem into the wider world, all around the Mediterranean, to Rome and even further, to the ends of the earth. And as people embark on those journeys, the gospel, the good news about God in Jesus travels with them. From the moment the priest Zachariah hears of it first in the temple at the beginning of the gospel, all the way up until Paul shares it from captivity in a prison in Rome at the end of the book of Acts.

The way Luke presents it, the gospel is on a journey, from the start meant to travel, made to go out into the wider world, and find itself shared among different people, in many and varied communities and circumstances.

God, according to the story as Luke tells it, can turn up anywhere, at any time and for anyone, even where he may be least expected. Faith, purpose, direction and clarity grow in relationship, as we travel; talking and sharing together. The gospel tells us God, Christ, can become present anytime, anywhere, in any circumstance. Formally or informally, purposefully and carefully curated in a worshipful liturgical setting like communion or in an ordinary meal that turns into something more.

Singing - Now the green blade rises **TiS 382**

OR: Abide with me TiS 586



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Offering

God of rising, surprising presence.
Holy One in Three, Three in One.
Bless these gifts we bring,
may they be bread for the hungry,
comfort for the lost,
words of hope for those who need to hear it.
As we bring these gifts we bring ourselves;
use us to accompany others on their journey.
Use us to warm hearts, break bread
and love, as you have loved us. Amen.

Notices

April 22nd is Earth Day. The theme is "Our power, our planet." How will you 'show up' for the planet? <https://www.earthday.org/>

Prayers for World & Community

Invite people to bring their prayers for the world, community and each other. Allow plenty of time and space for people to respond. You may choose to use the following phrases:

We pray for peace:

in places of war
In neighbourhoods and villages
in homes and hearts

We pray for wisdom:

for leaders of countries
for heads of churches
for teachers and parents

We pray for comfort:

for the lonely and isolated
for those who are grieving
for all who are in pain

We pray for healing:

for our planet under stress
for those who carry wounds
for conflict within families and friends

We pray the prayers of our heart: ...

Here's a prayer for Earth Day:

Our Urgent Prayer – EcoCongregationScotland

From the Worship Words website, used with permission. <https://worshipwords.co.uk/cop26-prayer-ecocongregationscotland/>

Sustaining God,
we pray with urgency
for the leaders of our species
and those with concern for our common home.

Give to those who make decisions
a freedom from the burdens of a past
which have pushed us to this cliff-edge.

Give a dawning vision of your offer of healing
greater than the blocked horizon
of what it might cost.

Argue and wrestle
with the powers and principalities
of expediency and despair.

Open every human ear to the voices of the Earth,
and of sisters, brothers, siblings,
who already suffer sharply.

Save us from the despair of complacency
and the toxic temptation
to embrace 'business as usual'
for that 'normal' has gone.

And our only future will be in wakefulness,
trust, hope, joy
yes, joy
as we live out your love
for the Earth we are part of,
through Jesus, our Friend.

Hosanna: God help 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.



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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 - Lord of the dance TiS 242

OR: Seek ye first the kingdom of God TiS 745

OR: God gives us a future TiS 687

Blessing

1 Peter 1: 22 from The Message:

*Now that you've cleaned up your lives
by following the truth,
love one another as if your lives depended on it.*

We go from here, walking together,
our hearts aflame, our eyes opened,
leaning into the love that will not be defeated.

And may you sense the presence of the Holy,
every waking moment,
and even as you dream.

And all the people say: **Amen.**

Singing - In the presence of your people TiS 727

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