



Easter 6 - Sunday May 10th, 2026 The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Followers of Jesus, do not be afraid.
The risen Christ
has sent an advocate to be with us,
a constant companion,
so we need never feel alone.

Come with confidence.
Come as you are.
Come into community.

Holy Three in One, One in Three,
be with us in this time together,
and in each day, and always.
And all the people say. **Amen.**

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 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 as you are TiS 693

OR: Come down, O love divine, TiS 398

OR: Love divine, all loves excelling TiS 217

OR: There's a great hymn by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette titled 'God of the women' if you are honoring mothers today.
https://www.carolynshymns.com/god_of_the_women.html



Prayer

Majestic God,
we are born of stardust,
recycled atoms from distant times.
In you we live and move and have our being.

Mothering God,
we are born of flesh,
each of us a new miracle of creation.
In you we live and move and have our being.

Midwifing God,
we are born of Spirit,
woven together in unimaginable love.
In you we live and move and have our being.

Praise to you, God of all creation;
**flowing from our lives
in endless streams of love.**

pause

Praise to you, God of all things past;
**joyful presence
in our memories and before us.**

pause

Praise to you, God of all that's to come,
**hopeful midwife
of unimaginable possibilities.**

pause

God, you know everyone's heart.
You know our delights. You dance in our joy.
You know our secret fears and sadness.
You know our longings and our struggles.
For it is in you that we live and move
and have our being.

Come to us now, in your mercy.

Take from us
the things we need to lay down.



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Create in us a new heart
that delights in your ways.
Let our words, thoughts and actions
be revelations of your goodness.

(good time of quiet)

Followers of the risen Christ,
through the gift of the Holy Spirit
know that you are accompanied,
loved and forgiven.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: John 14: 15-21 &
Acts 17: 22-31

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson

I wonder if you have ever had a best friend. I remember some special people who have been that for me, although as I have gotten older, I have developed many good friends and had less need for a 'bestie'. When my children were small, it was particularly good to have a small network of friends who were looking out for each other and assisting each other where we could. It enabled a bit more freedom, support when someone was sick, good and healthy play dates for our kids (not that we knew the term back then). It even enabled some part-time work while we cared for each other's kids.

Companionship is a valuable thing in life, yet there are so many who are lonely and long for someone to be their companion. The John passage today simply reassures us that we are not alone, that the Spirit is our Companion and

that our place of dwelling is in God. In fact, it shows that God through the image of the Trinity is involved in the nitty gritty of the everyday all our lives. We are loved by the Source of Life who parents us; we are companioned by One who is closer than our next breath, the Spirit of Truth who is our Great Advocate; we follow Jesus who brought us Life, showed us the Way, prays for us, and reveals God to us. This God expresses one desire for us to follow, that we also love one another.

I wonder why getting along together seems to have been the hardest thing to do through all of history. Ok, so I get that sometimes people might annoy us, differ from us, even infuriate us. But why can't we still love them and want the best for them? Especially when we have the Great Enabler. When "in him we live and move and have our being", as the Acts passage reminds us.

How then, might we offer companionship to the lonely? Hospitality and welcome is part of the brief for most churches and community groups. Many of us know and share with our neighbours and even small contributions are important in a world where hostility and confrontation are normalised, and people guard themselves with strong defences.

The Acts passage tells the story of Paul with the people of Athens, applauding how devout they were and revealing God to them, God who was hidden in plain sight, yet unknown. He explained that this God doesn't live in shrines and places of worship but amongst the everyday, that the only requirement was that they come back to God, turn toward a new way of living. That we live and move in God and turn our very being toward God. Jesus' command really is pure simplicity, and it seems too easy. Simply, Love. In this is the revelation of the character (the Glory) of God. In this, is our worship.

Singing - Jesus put this song into our hearts TiS 670

OR: What a friend we have in Jesus TiS 690



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Offering

God who advocates for us and the world, we offer these things for the sake of a lonely and broken world. Open us with your love that we may love others in your name. Amen.

Notices

May 15 is International Day of *Families*.

May 16 is International Day of *Living Together in Peace*.

Prayers for World & Community

There's a simple sung refrain through this prayer, You might like to change the words 'my' to 'our' 'I' to 'we', and 'me' to 'us'.

Singing - O Lord, hear our prayer TiS 741

Majestic, mothering, midwifing God,
Hear our prayer on this Mothers' Day.
Shield all who gather today
or connect with each other in joy and belonging.
Soothe all those who find this day painful,
and comfort those who grieve today
for what is lost or for longings unfulfilled.

Refrain

God of life,
hear our prayer for the world.
We pray for people in positions of leadership.
May they exercise their power with humility,
always working for the greater good,
always seeking the path of healing and peace.

Refrain

We pray for people who are grieving,
unable to make sense of life,
aching at the loss of loved ones,
or loss of identity, or home,
or health, or meaning.
May they know your comforting presence
in the deep absence.

Refrain

We pray for people who are struggling
to feed their families,
to keep them safe,
to access medical care,
to see the future with hope.
May they find a welcome place,
a gesture of kindness, a light in the dark.

Refrain

We pray for people who are imprisoned,
body, mind or soul,
locked in or locked out.
May they be befriended, included, released.

Refrain

Sent by Jesus,
with the Spirit as our advocate and guide,
we pray for the places, people and situations
that are especially on our hearts at this time:
(time of quiet prayer)

Refrain

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 - Joyful, joyful, we adore you **TiS 152**

OR: God sends us the Spirit TiS 412

OR: Now thank we all our God TiS 106



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Blessing

Go with hope in your hearts
and joy in your lives.
Go knowing that you are loved
and do your best to share that love.
Go, and walk the path of life.

And may the blessing of God;
Holy One in Three and Three in One,
Be upon you and within you
Today, tonight and always,
and all the people say, **Amen.**

Reflection: Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson

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