



Sunday June 7th, 2026 The Fig Tree Worship Resource



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

From the gospel of Matthew chapter 9, verse 9:

*As Jesus was walking along,
he saw a man called Matthew
sitting at the tax booth;
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed Him.*

We have come to follow you,
Jesus the Christ.
Getting up from our comfortable places
of complicity and complacency.

Hearing your call,
we have come to follow you.

May it be so, Amen

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

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 - O God our help in ages past TiS 49

OR: Come as you are, TiS 693

Prayer

We thank and praise you,
sovereign God of all that is, was and will be.
You bring life out of darkness.
You establish order where there is chaos.
You disturb us into hope
with your persistent presence.
Our words of praise cannot measure your glory,
and yet you weave us into one people,
generation upon generation,
bound together in your outpouring love.

We thank and praise you, Jesus the Christ,
for coming to us, and calling to us,
and inviting us to follow you.
The threads of our lives entwine with yours,
our stories meet and meld,
as you heal and hold and lift us up,
so that we can do the same for others.

We thank and praise you, Spirit of Life,
Advocate, Comforter, Sustainer,
for being alongside and unsettling us,
tipping us into truth,
confronting us with questions,
showering us with enthusiasm and hope.

One in Three, Three in One,
God of many names, we adore you.
From Matthew's gospel chapter 9, verse 13 we
hear these words of Jesus;
*"Go and learn what this means,
I desire mercy, not sacrifice.;*
*For I have come to call not the righteous
but sinners."*

And we remember, that we all take wrong turns,
we fail to follow in the way of Jesus.
We harm others and ourselves
and desecrate your world in which we live.

We gladly receive your love and grace,
but often fail to show love and grace to others.



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In the quiet we bring those things
we have done, or not done,
that weigh heavy on our hearts,
asking you to forgive us
and to set us free from these burdens
of guilt, shame or regret.

(hold a time of silence)

Siblings in love,
There is nothing in all creation
that can separate us from the love of God
shown in Christ Jesus.
Hear then these words of faith:
our burdens are lifted, our sins are forgiven,
thanks be to God, Amen.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Genesis 12: 1-9

Psalm 33:1-12 (responsive)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.

Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him
with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full
of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in awe of him.
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations
to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen
as his heritage.

Read: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

Who is this Jesus?

We have finished the seasons of festivals
and special Sundays; we enter *Ordinary Time*. The
readings today give us stories of Jesus and
ordinary people's reactions to him. I wonder if we
relate to any of these people in how we have
encountered Jesus, or through our lives or how
others react to us and our faith.

Our first ordinary person is Matthew;
perhaps not so ordinary. He is a tax collector, so
disliked because of his job. 'Taking-our-money' tax
departments are not popular! But also, because
tax collectors were known for adding their own
cut to the tax required and he worked for the
Romans, he was also rich. But Jesus calls him to
"Follow me" and he does. I know my reaction to
God's call was not as quick or clear.

Next, we hear of the Pharisees, they are
the religious leaders and object to Jesus'
behaviour. He associates with the outcasts of
society. Jesus does not fit with the requirements



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of the religious institution, and the institution does not like it. I wonder if this sounds familiar. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means ... I have not come to call the righteous but sinners," Jesus says. Are we sinners or righteous? Do we think we are sinners or righteous?

Then a 'leader' enters the scene asking for help. He has faith that Jesus will be able to raise the dead. An important person, who could no doubt afford physicians but believes that the only one, now, who can help his child is Jesus. He does feel that Jesus must come to the child, there must be contact between Jesus and the child for this resurrection. Conditions on his faith?

Then the woman, an outcast, she has been menstruating for twelve years so is considered unclean, forbidden to attend worship in the temple. Her life is hard but her faith is so strong she believes she only needs to touch Jesus' cloak and she is healed. She has amazing faith.

The next encounter is the mourners outside the dead girl's house. Jesus' words "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping" make them laugh. The report of Jesus' miracle spread throughout the district.

Following, criticising, disbelieving, believing with conditions, trusting unconditionally, laughing and spreading the story. An amazing range of reactions to Jesus. We have probably seen or heard all of them. Some of the words probably apply to our lives, we have at some time been called to follow or to use our gifts in God's community. We have all felt that how God's community or leaders do things is not the 'right way'. We have felt at times that we need clearer direction in leading or following a mission or direction in our communities. We have probably laughed at the way the church goes about things or what they try to do, but the work of Jesus continues and reports continue to spread.

God calls, we answer and the results can be surprising, the communities of God still exist

and make a difference in the world. Take courage, God is always there, we need to listen to God's voice and not the reaction of disbelievers or believers. Jesus offers the example.

Singing - Faith will not grow from words alone TiS 691

OR: Jesus Christ is waiting TiS 665

Offering

God of abundant and surprising love,
bless these gifts of love we bring;
ourselves and our time, money and goods.

**Gracious God, bless these gifts
that they might be expressions
of mercy and goodness,
where they are needed most,
in ministry, mission and service to you. Amen.**

Notices

June 8th is World Oceans Day

June 12th is the World Day Against Child Labour

Prayers for World & Community

The refrain can be spoken or sung: TiS 737

**Lord, Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment
bring healing, bring peace.**

We pray for those who are a long way from home, or who don't know where or what home might be:

**Lord, Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment
bring healing, bring peace.**
(hold a time of silence)



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We pray for our home, this land, this country, this planet; help us to find ways of reducing harm and bringing regeneration and healing, learning from the deep wisdom of the traditional custodians.

**Lord, Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment
bring healing, bring peace.**
(hold a time of silence)

We pray for healing for our friends, family, neighbours and ourselves, All who are in distress, in need of your healing touch.

**Lord, Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment
bring healing, bring peace.**
(hold a time of silence)

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 – Guide me O thou great
Redeemer TiS 569**

OR: Take my life and let it be TiS 599

Blessing

From UiW2 p184-185

The grace of Christ attend you;
the love of God surround you;
the Holy Spirit keep you;
this day and forever.

Go out into the world in the power of the Spirit;
in all things, at all times,
remember that Christ is with you;
Make your life your worship
to the praise and glory of God. Amen

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