



Sunday June 14th, 2026 The Fig Tree Worship Resource



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Good news!
- the kingdom of heaven has come near!

If you feel a little disheartened
because that seems a long way off,
you are in the right place.

Here we proclaim good news
because God is good news.

Here we invite you to come near,
especially if God seems far away.

Here we proclaim good news
that it may reach the places of need.

We proclaim it for the sake of the world.

Good news!
- the kingdom of heaven has come near!

Let us worship God.

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 down O Love divine TiS 398

OR: O breath of life TiS 409

Prayer

God of wonder:
who calls
and sends
who gives authority
even to you and me ...

We offer our thanks and praise
alongside some healthy trepidation.

Who are we to have authority over
unclean spirits
to cast them out
to cure every disease and sickness
until the kingdom of heaven comes near?

We offer you our thanks and praise
feeling as though
whatever you have in mind
we are too few
and the world is stacked against us.

Yet we offer you our thanks and praise
so we might know your good news
so we might proclaim your good news
so we might live out your good news
until the kingdom of heaven comes near.

God of wonder:
who calls
and sends
and gives authority
even to you and me ...

... forgive our failings
and accept our thanks and praise
in Jesus' name.
May it be so.
Amen.

Passing the peace

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



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Listening

Read: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Responsive Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

I love the LORD because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD;**

I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

**Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.**

O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.**

I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,

**in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

ALL: Praise the LORD!

Read: Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

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

Reflecting - Rev. Jennie Gordon

Have you ever been expected to perform a task, hired to do a job or sent on a mission that you felt totally unprepared for, and ill-equipped to begin, let alone to complete?

There had been a serious car accident involving young members of the local sporting club late on Saturday night. With my phone on silent, I noticed the message after finishing the first of two services that Sunday morning. An urgent call from the Club President. Please come to the rooms. We need you now.

I walked into the building with a prayer in my heart, nothing in my hands, and no plan about what to do, but I walked in, and stayed a while. I came back after the second service and stayed for weeks that merged into months. I never once felt that I was enough, but I was there, listening, caring, calming, crying, standing alongside.

Just pause a minute – have you been in a similar situation? Did you wonder why it was you and not someone else a bit more skilled or wiser, or more courageous, clever, or faithful?

In Matthew's gospel we hear that Jesus calls these twelve disciples, but who are they, and what are their qualifications? Are they the best of the best; the smartest, toughest, coolest, most attractive people he could find? I don't think so.

All we know about them is their names, some of their family connections, one with a dubious occupation and we know he was despised, and one who was bound to be the betrayer. Were they the best that Jesus could find? They'll get it wrong frequently, they'll fall asleep when Jesus needs them to keep awake and, in the end, they'll be nowhere to be found, hiding behind locked doors and walking away in the other direction.

Yet Jesus sends these people on what appears to be a 'mission impossible'; tell everyone, well, tell the people of Israel, that the



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Kingdom of Heaven has come near, and don't just tell them, show them like this – cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, oh and by the way, don't get paid to do it. No need to pack. Off you go now. Can you imagine...

What I see in this reading, and what I know in my life is that Jesus sends ordinary people to do extraordinary things, and somehow, along the way, we are encouraged and equipped, the kingdom of heaven comes near and it looks a lot like love.

Sarah laughs at the thought of bearing a child in her old age. Abraham, who has followed God's leading with deep faithfulness, has now entertained the holy three / holy one, with abundant and impeccable hospitality. The promise of generations of descendants flows from this meal by the oaks of Mamre. Sarah's laughter ripples like a river of joy when the promise is fulfilled, and Isaac is born. It's a story of ordinary people, laughing, doubting people believing God's promise and having the courage and faith to do extraordinary things.

So here we are, not the toughest, the richest, the most talented, or the brightest, but a rag-tag bunch of companions walking in the way of Jesus. And there is Jesus, looking on us with compassion and asking us to put our big boots back on and keep walking together. We are exactly the right people for this time and this place because we are here together, called and sent to proclaim the good news and show it in abundant love.

Siblings in Christ, maybe we should travel light, and encourage each other along the way, and I believe that God will continue to make possible what currently seems outrageously impossible. May it be so, Amen.

Singing - In the presence of your people

TiS 727

OR: All my hope on God is founded TiS 560

Offering

Loving Jesus, you commission us to be your people, with a reminder; We receive without payment so we must give without payment.

Bless these offerings we bring; money, food, time and talents and use them so that the message of your healing, hope-filled love will come to those in need.

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

Notices

Today marks the beginning of Refugee Week - June 14-20. For more info:

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/>

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

June 17 is World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

June 19 is International Day for the elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

June 20 is World Refugee Day.

What have you got planned for next week's 49th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia?

Prayers for World & Community

For a world burdened with hatred, violence and wars, we pray for your good news to be known.

Send us Jesus:

equip us to bear your good news to the world.

For a country that has lost trust in leaders and neighbours, where people cannot see the common good as being good for them anymore, we pray for your good news to be known.



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Send us Jesus:

equip us to bear your good news to the world.

For a church that also loses trust in leaders and neighbours, a church that struggles to be light under the weight of itself, we pray for your good news to be known.

Send us Jesus:

equip us to bear your good news to the world.

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 - Amazing Grace TiS 129

OR: The great love of God TiS 164

Blessing

How amazing,
that we are called
and sent
in the name of God.

How amazing, that
even when we are not feeling amazing,
we are asked to share,
to be part of,
what God does in the world.

Are you ready?
Are you ready to go
and be, the hands and feet of God?

Perhaps a blessing will help.
Jesus reminds us to ask
for help in all of this.

As we ask, so we receive,
a blessing,
as people called,
and sent out in the name of God.

Bless us all,
in the name of the Creator,
Redeemer, and Sustainer,
Amen.

Good news!

Now go!

Blessing Song - Send me Jesus TiS 749

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