



Sunday August 9th, 2026

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Leader: It is good to gather because God is with us, blessing all.

ALL: Let everyone give thanks!

Leader: It is good to be here because Christ is here whenever two or three meet in his name.

ALL: Sing to God, tell of God's remarkable doings.

Leader: It is good to be here with the Spirit, leading us into truth that matters.

ALL: Together, we will seek God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

We join in prayer with others across time
and around the world
with a prayer from the 7th century: [UIW]

O loving God,
you are the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
and the strength of the hearts that serve you.
Help us so to know you
that we may truly love you;
and so to love you
that we may faithfully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 - Sing praise to God, TiS 110

OR: Jesus calls us, TiS 589

OR: Come as you are TiS 693

OR: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer TiS 569



Prayer

God of all, creator of new beginnings since the very first beginning. You breathe life into our world, energy that sparks our living, creativity into all your diverse creation. We thank you and stand in awe.

And then, because so often we find it hard to start again; to believe that there really are new beginnings possible for us, we get stuck in old ways and destructive habits. By your Spirit, stir us forward in our walk with you.

With those who have hurt us, we do not always forgive or take up the chance of a fresh start.
With those who cause us trouble we have not always looked for a way to find peace.
With our love, we have often not shared enough;

See us through your mercy, forgive us, pour your love into our thinking and doing. Then transform the dark debris of our messes into the brightness of your grace.

Be your renewing self with us; give us the assurance of your new beginnings, through Jesus, you bring hope in our despair.

Destroyer of darkness,
the light of your love brings life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

forgive us, as your children.

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Passing the peace

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

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Listening

Read: Romans 10: 5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Teach us wisdom, O God;
let your word bring us light.

** A moment of quiet for reflection.*

Reflecting - Rev. Ram Thanga

Stepping into the Stream of Faith

Have you ever felt that life is like a journey across rough waters? Every day we hear news of wars, violence, rising living costs, natural disasters, and growing uncertainty. Many people are struggling with loneliness, anxiety, poor health, family pressures, or the loss of loved ones. Some are worried about their future, while others are simply trying to get through one day at a time. Life can feel like a small boat being tossed about by strong winds and high waves.

The disciples knew what that felt like. After Jesus fed the five thousand, he sent them ahead by boat while he went up the mountain to pray. During the night, a fierce wind arose, and the waves battered the boat. The disciples were experienced fishermen, yet even they were afraid. In the darkest part of the night, when hope seemed to be fading, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. At first, they thought he was a ghost, but Jesus spoke words they desperately needed to hear: **"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

Those words are just as meaningful today. Jesus does not promise that life will always be calm or free from trouble. Peace does not mean the absence of trouble. Instead, he promises to be with us in the middle of our storms. His presence gives us hope when fear threatens to take over.

Peter answered Jesus with courage. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus replied with one simple word: **"Come."** Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking

towards Jesus. It was an amazing act of faith. But when he shifted his attention from Jesus to the wind and the waves, fear overcame him, and he began to sink. Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

J. Howard Olds calls this **"stepping into the stream."** Faith is not only believing that Jesus is Lord. Faith is trusting him enough to take the next step, even when we cannot see the whole path ahead. Peter was willing to leave the safety of the boat. Although he stumbled, he experienced something that the others never did because he responded to Jesus' invitation.

Today, our "boats" may be our fears, our comfort zones, or our desire to stay in control. Jesus may be calling us to forgive someone, begin a new ministry, support a neighbour in need, stand for justice, or simply trust him through a difficult season. Taking that first step may feel risky, but it is often where faith grows the most.

The most comforting part of this story is not that Peter walked on water, but that Jesus immediately reached out his hand when Peter cried, **"Lord, save me!"** Our hope is not in having perfect faith but in having a faithful Saviour. Even when we struggle, doubt, or fall, Christ does not let go of us. His grace is greater than our weakness, and his love is stronger than every storm.

Today's Gospel gently invites each of us to ask: What rough waters am I facing today? Where is Jesus inviting me to step out in faith? And Jesus still says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Singing - Great is your faithfulness, TiS 154

OR: Seek, O seek the Lord, TiS 464

OR: Be still, my soul, TiS 123

Offering

In your goodness we gather and are sent.
Bless what we bring, God of abundance,
and bless us, as we seek to do your will,
here, where we are. Amen.



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Notices

Today is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Also - 1945, Destruction of Nagasaki by Atomic Bomb.

August 12 is International Youth Day

Prayers for World & Community

God of all grace, thankful for everything that you bless us with, we try to exercise the identity you give us. So as part of your family we pray together. We mostly like the idea of being 'pilgrim people, on the way to a promised goal', until the way gets rough or risky.

We join you in your concern for the vulnerable and at risk in the storms of life and pray for your presence to guide and your loving grace to calm the winds that disturb and make us fearful:

- we pray for those anxious because the winds of racism and fear are being whipped up again; may your steady justice and sure truth show the way,

- we pray for those fearful that the small boat of their lives will be sunk by the violence of war, the bullying of abusers or the greed of others, may your calming hand reach out with peace and love,

- we pray for our national church as waves of pressing matters, of governance and resourcing buffet our faith building communities, may the blessing of your Spirit keep us safe and blown along in the way of self-giving love in your mission to all, keep us from dropping anchor, help us to be responsive to your direction and open to risk and new possibilities.

- we pray for those close to our hearts; those sick, troubled, lonely or fearful and we name them to you in the quiet ...

Loving God, you notice our storms and know our needs, strengthen us, help us to know how to be part of the answering of our prayers, which we

bring in the name of the one who comes to us with an outstretched hand to help.

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 - Holy Spirit, go before us, Tis 420

OR: Christ be my leader, TIS 624

OR: Your hand, O God, has guided ... TIS 456

OR: Eternal Father, strong to save TIS 138

Blessing

When faith is firm, serve God joyfully.

When faith is a struggle,
serve God courageously.

In times of joy may we sense God's smile.

In times of grief may we feel God's tears.

Go knowing that God, who holds all things
will be with us in stormy times and rough waters,
that Christ who calls us friend
will walk the way alongside us,
and that the Spirit who dreams our story
will mark our way with light and hope.

in the name of Christ. Amen

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