



## Sunday June 5th, 2022 The Fig Tree Worship Resource

### Gathering & Lighting the Candle

From Acts 2:

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

We light the candle, a reminder that the light of Christ continues to shine among us, that the Spirit, the Advocate, comes in his name.

### Singing: TIS 711 Come O Holy Spirit

Even if you don't know this one, it's worth a try. It is both simple to sing and fun. Be adventurous and sing it in the original language from Nigeria, Yoruba.

### Call to worship

Friends, we gather to discern, receive and wonder at the gift of the Holy Spirit. She comes to us as Advocate, as truth and peace.

Let us worship God.

### Acknowledging



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

### Singing: TIS 152 Joyful joyful we adore you



### Prayer

God who breathed life into clay  
and gave humans and all creation life,  
we come in awe and wonder  
at the life you give us.

Every breath we take is your breath, your Spirit  
animating our very being. The ancients knew this  
deep truth and understood every breath as  
acknowledging your Holy name.

But we confess it's easy to forget something  
profound like this or overlook it as common.  
Forgive us when we dismiss your creative love  
and presence and believe we are the ones that  
power our own destiny.

We need your Spirit, Advocate, truth and  
peace-bearer. We need the Spirit to show us your  
ways as distinct from attitudes and powers  
belonging to the world. Forgive us when we long  
for power over others, to get our way, for when  
we are careless towards others and act in ways  
that create division.

*time for quiet reflection*

As we offer and open ourselves up to Christ's  
healing, the light shines to call us again to the one  
who animates our very being.

In the name of Christ we are alive, we are made  
new, **thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Listening

Read: Acts 2:1-21 &  
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

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



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**Reflecting - Rev. Deacon Marian Bisset**

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Ni ko sa vosataka e dua na vosa sai koya o ya e dua na uma tamata (Fijian)

ഒരു ഭാഷ സംസാരിക്കുക എന്നത് ഒരു ജനതയെ സംസാരിക്കുക

Oru bhasha samsarikkuka ennathu oru janathaye samsarikkuka ennathanu (Malayalam)

Hablar una lengua es hablar a un pueblo (Spanish)

Willie James Jennings wrote “when we speak a language, we speak a people.”[1] This simple sentence captures the depth and wondrous amazement which must have abounded at the Day of Pentecost of which Luke in Acts wrote. There is the moment during which the gathered crowd were united through all the cultural, linguistic and gender diversity within the crowd.

They were a crowd from everywhere, though what drew them to that spot at that moment we may never know, but the intangible, violent wind surrounded them with an invisible yet palpable presence. This diverse crowd would be forever changed, forever united through the wind, the Spirit which engulfed them, blew through them, and held them together in a new space as new people, new identities in the Spirit.

In a world intent on limiting relationships to language and the interpretation of language, I wonder what the world would look like if we understood the importance of translating the lives of people around us, within and outside our usual circle of life. In the absence of linguistic barriers, cultural and gender diversity will no longer be hampered or restricted. Then the Spirit Holy can move freely and we lose the inhibitions of division and embody what it truly is to be a follower of Christ.

In the coming of the fire onto the heads of all who gathered that day, the commonality of language was understood because the language became the language beyond words and instead, breath of the Spirit. The individual voices became strong and powerful as one voice. What privilege there is in that for us today. We have been gifted the key to holding culture, gender, race, sexual orientation, and language diversity together when we listen, when we open our hearts, when we let go of fear and misgiving of ‘the other’ and when we see God in ‘the other’.

I am reminded in this reading where all are united and accepted as they are, without barrier, without question, as they are before God, that John of Patmos wrote this was what the new Jerusalem would look like, where the gates would be always open and all could stream through (Rev. 22:25, NRSV). Now the world seems to focus on the differences between peoples and cultures as a negative and something not to be celebrated but to be demonised with, at times, horrific outcomes. Have we become so lost and misdirected as to be content with this? As Christians, as people of any faith and no faith, we are called to the very opposite.

The wind blows, the wind surrounds us,  
The breath of the Spirit transcends the boundaries and barriers,  
Hablar una lengua es hablar a un pueblo,  
We speak a language, we speak a people,

ഒരു ഭാഷ സംസാരിക്കുക എന്നത് ഒരു ജനതയെ സംസാരിക്കുക

Oru bhasha samsarikkuka ennathu oru janathaye samsarikkuka ennathanu  
We speak a language, we speak a people,  
Ni ko sa vosataka e dua na vosa sai koya o ya e dua na uma tamata  
We speak a language, we speak a people.



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Rainbow God of inclusion, of difference, of sameness, Come breathe your breath on us gathered here, So we may speak a language, speak a people, One, in and through God of all.

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[1] Willie J Jennings, *Acts: A theological Commentary on the Bible*, (Westminster: John Knox Press, 2017), 30.

### ***Singing: TIS 398 Come down O love divine***

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### ***Responding: Prayers for World & Community***

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Spirit of the living God, fall afresh upon us as we offer our prayers for the world and community, that we may speak a language of love for all people in and through God of all.

As the results of the Federal Election become clearer we pray for our government, for newly elected members to parliament, for those who were not elected and for those who will reflect upon a different future than they had hoped for. Grant the new government and our new prime minister, Anthony Albanese grace and wisdom as they take up many challenges ahead of them.

As we reflect on country, we acknowledge that as the National Reconciliation week comes to an end that much is yet needed towards healing and voices that are heard amidst our diversity as a nation. May we have courage and grace as we build covenantal relationships as First and Second people of this land.

God who offers us the Spirit as companion, comfort, advocate and guide, be with peoples in all places who need these things. We think of places deep in war, places where violence is hidden, places of isolation and loneliness. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on all who struggle and suffer, including those we know and love, including ourselves.

*time for silent or communal prayer*

Renew us and refresh us and the whole of your creation. In the name of Christ we pray, amen.

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

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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.

### ***Passing the peace***

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

### ***Offering***

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Loving Spirit, you have called us and you encourage us in our journey as followers of Jesus the Christ. As we offer these things we offer in your name we offer again in the strength of your Spirit the whole of our beings as followers of you. May it be so, amen.

### ***Notices***

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Today is *World Environment Day*, a day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

### ***Singing: TIS 411 Filled with the Spirit's power***

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***Blessing***

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Jesus promised the disciples that even though he had to leave them, they would not be orphaned.

As we prepare to leave our places of worship, we too go with the gift of the Holy Spirit - Advocate, comfort, guide and bearer of truth and peace.

As you go, may you find blessing, may our breath be Spirit and the Spirit be our breath.

Go and be one in the equipping of the Spirit and the desire of God upon us. So we may speak a language, speak a people, One, in and through God of all.

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