



Sunday July 3rd, 2022 The Fig Tree Worship Resource



Our UCA Synod of Vic/Tas is meeting this week, from the opening worship on June 30th to the closing eucharist on July 3rd.

The theme, 'Arise, come with me' is from the Song of Solomon 2: 10-14. The first and last hymn in this resource were sung at the Opening Worship.

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

You come knocking on our door,
Spirit of surprises,
tapping on the window, calling us to arise.
To Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

**Be with us in this time together;
let the words we hear and speak
the songs we sing
and your movement amongst us
remake us into your people
who bring peace to others
and go where we are sent,**

in Jesus' name, Amen.

Acknowledgement Prayer



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

God who loves us all, we acknowledge and ask your blessing on the traditional custodians of this land and these waters that have never been ceded. Show us ways to **Get Up! Stand Up! and Show Up!** as we offer our respect for elders past, present and emerging and help us to uphold our commitment, First and Second Peoples together, to be joined in covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all. In the name of Jesus who calls us to be people of peace, Amen.

Singing - Praise with joy ... TiS 179



Prayer

Glorious, unfathomable God,
in your mystery you were present
in time beyond our knowing.

You breathe,
and sparks emerge from the dark
order is fashioned from chaos,
and life begins her cycles.

You breathe,
and the Word is made flesh,
we glimpse glory, grace and truth,
as we are called and sent.

You breathe,
and wrap the warp and weft of wonder
between our beating hearts,
so that we might all stand, strong,
woven into the cloak of kinship.

Yet, we confess,
that sometimes we turn away
from your breath of life,
closing our doors, our ears, our lives.

We do not always get up when you call,
Forgive us, wake us up.
(time of quiet)

We do not always stand up for justice,
Forgive us, hold us steady.
(time of quiet)

We do not always show up bringing peace.
**Forgive us, send us out
with empty hands and open arms.**
(time of quiet)

Siblings in Christ,
hear this assurance
and live as if you believe it:
We are loved and forgiven.
Thanks be to God, Amen.



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Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Psalm 30
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Reflecting - Rev. Jennie Gordon

“We are a pilgrim people...” Our Uniting Church in Australia’s Basis of Union states it, and we often repeat it. What sort of pilgrim people are we?

I’ve tramped St Cuthbert’s Way, along the English, Scottish border, walking across the Pilgrim’s Way at low tide to end on Holy Island, Lindisfarne. Travelling light was possible, a day pack with food, water and waterproofs, because the tour company was transporting our bags from one night’s accommodation to the next. All we had to do was walk. At the end of each day there was a welcome table and a warm bed waiting for us. Sometimes the hosts even cleaned our boots, and always sent us out into the morning with a packed lunch and full water bottles. However, I don’t think this is anything like the mission that Jesus intends as he sends seventy disciples ahead of him.

Will Willimon, preacher and theologian, describes the three main jobs for this mission. Jobs that Jesus was already doing.

1. Do divine acts - heal the sick and raise the dead... etc.
2. Rely on God and the goodness of others.
3. Expect rejection and resistance but don’t despair, move on.

As disciples of Jesus we are sent in a similar way, after all, we are a pilgrim people, and those three main jobs for the mission apply to us also.

1. We are called to bring hope and healing, life and love, to be peddlers of peace. This is not a passive bystander role, a pleasant stroll through the countryside. This is an

active belief that out of the ashes of all that we’ve lost, (*pause because we have lost a great deal, and there’s more to come...*) that something new and wonderful will arise. This is not patient palliative care for a dying church, this is finding the new growth that springs up from the blackened stumps and celebrating the miracle with great joy!

2. How much can we let go of, as the Uniting Church in Australia, to travel light and to trust God’s provision? An imperative for survival in the account in Luke’s gospel is to accept the hospitality of people who offer welcome. Listening to a Welcome to Country from our First Peoples sisters and brothers always pulls me up. Implicit in the welcome is an understanding that’s been largely lost; that those who are welcomed will know when to leave. We don’t and we won’t, but the welcome is still extended. How then, as Second Peoples can we learn to receive this hospitality of grace? How can we be the ones who open, or rather dismantle, our colonial doors and allow the unimpeded mission of God to come in and dwell with us? What does it mean to walk this pilgrim path together?
3. Nobody said it would be easy, this path of discipleship. There are always good, sound reasons for stopping along the way and refusing to go on, for deep consultation about which path we are actually on and what footwear is appropriate, for wondering about which voices have the microphone as we listen in order to be led. Rejection and resistance are sometimes confronting, often annoying and usually clarifying, then we move on.

May you travel light Synod of Vic/Tas, Walking Together and listening for the whispers of the Spirit as we seek to make our life line up with the mission of the One who calls and sends us.



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Singing - Arise

WORDS: Jennie Gordon, based on the Song of Solomon Ch 2
– For UCA Synod of Vic/Tas 2022
TUNE: CONVERSE 8.7.8.7.D (What a friend we have in Jesus)

Spirit calls, 'Arise, come with me.
Oh, my dear ones, come away.
Now the wattles are all blooming.
Now the magpie greets the day.'

We, emerging through the struggles
seek a 'truth and justice' way,
heed the call and walk together,
love and listen, learn and pray.

Offering

God who calls us in and sends us out. Bless the multitude of offerings that are made in our common lives together : money and time, skills and wisdom, work and play, silence and stories. May these gifts, and their givers, be bearers of love and hope for the sake of peace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Notices

It's the beginning of NAIDOC week!

There's a multitude of resources for you and your congregation on the Vic/Tas website, to inspire, inform and assist you to **Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!** Have you used the Covenanting Guide?
<https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting>

If you get this early enough, there are some live streaming **opportunities to connect with the Synod meeting**. There will be reporting too. Check the website and see what you can find :
<https://victas.uca.org.au>

Responding:

Prayers for World & Community

We pray for the church, especially the Synod of Vic/Tas at this time of meeting.

God bless our leaders,

bless Denise Liersch as she finds rest and recovery and a new direction after being Moderator.

Bless David Fotheringham and he walks this new and challenging path of discipleship as our Moderator.

Bless Sharon Hollis, our President.

Bless all who hold positions of responsibility in these challenging and changing times.

Bless ministers, lay leaders, musicians, flower arrangers, cleaners and greeters

Bless all who use their gifts to serve you.

We pray for our world,

God bless our nation as we continue to learn what it means to live in this land, with her sovereign people. God bless our attempts at living in harmony, and help us to recognise your miracles amongst us.

God bless those parts of the world that are at war, and suffering from disease, despair and hunger. Send peace, hope and healing.

God bless our planet, struggling to breathe and feed her plants and creatures. Help us to assist in the flourishing of all of life and to cease from spoiling that which is magnificent.

God bless our friends, families, neighbours and people in our towns.

Pour your spirit of generosity into our communities so that we might find equity and justice, and feed each other in love.

God bless us, help us to be your pilgrim people, always on the way ...
giving and receiving your hospitality,
being interconnected with all of creation and reliant on each other
as we pray together
the words that Jesus taught his disciples:



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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 ... Tis 569

Blessing

You come knocking on our door,
Spirit of surprises,
tapping on the window, calling us to arise.
To Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

**Send us out to be your people
who bring peace to others
and go where we are sent,
in Jesus' name,**

And may the blessing of the Holy,
Three in One and One in Three
be upon you and remain with you
each day and each night,
each day and each night,
Amen.

Liturgy, Reflection & Editor:
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