



Sunday July 24th, 2022 ***The Fig Tree Worship Resource***

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Ask,
and it will be given to you;
search,
and you will find;
knock,
and the door will be opened for you.

We light the candle as we remember the light of Christ shines upon our path.

Let us worship God.

Acknowledging



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 217 Love divine

Prayer



God of love,
We give our thanks and praise for all you offer us.

We recall Jesus guiding his disciples and we give thanks that we are invited into our own journey as his disciples.

We give thanks for all he brings to us in your name: for grace, compassion, healing, wisdom and a call to pray as he has taught us.

Like the early church, we claim Jesus for ourselves, that we have received Christ, and we live our lives rooted in him.

As we do so, we know that living as his disciples is perhaps the greatest of challenges.

How can we live as he has shown us?

(pause)

How can we understand what he has taught?

(pause)

How can we be confident and close to you, our God, like Jesus was?

(pause)

As we renew our desire and commitment to follow Jesus the Christ, lift us again to live and understand and be confident in this journey of life and faith.

Friends, as the Father calls Jesus *beloved*, so we are beloved by God. Be renewed and refreshed in God's love. Amen.

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Read: Colossians 2: 6-15 &
Luke 11:1-10

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

Reflecting - Rev. Ian Brown

"Lord, teach us to pray," a disciple asks. It's one of the few good questions they manage and there's a very positive response from their teacher. Good questions are important for



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learning. You may have heard of the two men who were walking across a paddock when one noticed a bull charging straight at them. They both take off running and as the bull is getting close, one says to the other, 'quick, say a prayer.' The panting runner prays the only one he can remember: 'Lord make us truly thankful for what we are about to receive.'

- Teach us to pray is a good question!

Jesus gives the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer - with its pattern for relating to God and the parables of the late visitors needing bread and the generous parent. They teach that God is to be trusted. We're told to pray and to ask of God the things of the kingdom, as a trusting child would ask a parent. Jesus says we can be sure of receiving the Spirit from God.

It's typical of Jesus to develop theology by using stories or parables from everyday life. The argument goes: 'everyone knows' that a friend will help another out in a tough spot, even if reluctantly. So think of God being better than that.

But prayer is one of the areas where we western Christians have most difficulty. What should we do when we pray? What is it OK to ask for and what isn't? Does prayer work or make a difference? Is there a technique that will help us in our praying? Our questions can go on and on.

But Jesus simply gave us a model to follow when we pray, saying, "Father in heaven...." and you may have noticed this is the most succinct version.

There is one radical, key statement that takes the heart of Jesus teaching and prays it towards reality. "YOUR KINGDOM COME." This line should be up in lights. It's no meek acquiescence, like saying, "OK God, you have it your way." No, this prayer invites us ask for and participate in, the bringing of God's new realm into being in our world and in our lives. This prayer aligns us with the ministry of Jesus, who lived, taught, healed, helped and gave for others. This three word phrase signals a desire to change the world.

When we pray it, perhaps we ought to wear a seat belt and crash helmets, just in case God actually takes us seriously!

The "kingdom comes" into being a little more every time you and I put some of Jesus values to work in our lives. The "kingdom comes" into being a little more every time we forgive someone with the same grace God forgives us with. The "kingdom comes" into being a little more every time we share our daily bread or a few dollars, every time we show real compassion, every time we resist the urge to judge someone. The "kingdom comes" into being a little more every time we visit with compassion, when we extend love beyond our self interest and as we share in and build the community, however that's expressed.

The story Jesus tells encourages a posture of asking. Don't be afraid to be open about your needs before God;
"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened"
- a church of knockers perhaps? Ask, search, knock; don't be complacent; says Jesus.

All this should be put into practice, as Paul reminds the Colossians,
"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught."

May the "KINGDOM COME" just a little more, in us and through us, to God's glory. Amen.

Singing - TiS 550 Our Father, God in heaven above

Try tune: TiS 138 Melita

Alternative song: TiS 465 'Father in heaven'



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Offering

Bless all that we offer in your name and for your purpose, God of grace. May your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Notices

July 30 is *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons* and the *International Day of Friendship*.

Responding: **Prayers for World & Community**

Our Father in heaven,

we offer our prayers for a world in need of your grace and love. As we struggle with the many and diverse needs both global and local, remind us again how we might pray.

Hallowed be your name.

We pray for a world groaning amidst violence and destruction - of sovereign states, of communities and relationships, of environment. We struggle to understand why many things happen - such as violence against civilians in Ukraine under the cloak of war; or trafficking of persons to become slaves or to pleasure people in power. We acknowledge the work of our Synod in its advocacy work around justice and international mission. We acknowledge the legacy of the late Jill Ruzbacky towards ending child prostitution in the Phillipines.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

We see a world of displaced people and many who are taken advantage of in their vulnerability and desperation. We hear of the rise of boats leaving Sri Lanka for our shores and we wonder again how and what we might pray for all who struggle.

Give us today our daily bread.

We pray for all who feel the bite of global economic pressures and rising inflation and who struggle to make ends meet. We pray for wisdom and compassion from our Federal and State leaders as budgets cannot be balanced, as COVID continues its spread, as many are finding themselves homeless.

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

We pray for our church, for the new Uniting Church Moderator in Victoria-Tasmania, Rev. David Fotheringham. Bless David as he leads us into a new and hopeful church in this emerging time. Bless our Presbyteries and Congregations, and their leaders, as we journey through these times as faith communities.

Remind us again how we are to live and be as people who follow Jesus the Christ.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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 - TiS 409 O breath of life, come sweeping through us



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Blessing

Friends,

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught.”

The blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be upon you now and always.
Amen.

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