



Sunday October 9th, 2022

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise. *(from Ps 66)*

As we gather we hear anew
what the Lord has done among us.
So come and hear, all who are in awe of God.

We light a candle, for the light of Christ shines
here.

Optional Song:

TiS 720 Halle halle hallelujah
*This could be sung as an act of gathering, perhaps
as the bible or candle is carried into the
sanctuary.*

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 of our ancestors, like them we stop in awe:
How awesome are your deeds!
All the earth worships you
and sings in praise to you.

As we listen and remember,
help us give voice to
our thanks and praise.

We reflect on the Scriptures
and recall with Jeremiah that
our welfare depends on the welfare of all.

So we pause to consider
how we have cared for
our families,
our communities,
our world.

silent reflection

Like Jeremiah and all the people,
we face times of challenge -
and challenge often brings out our worst.
Yet you remind us
that life can be found in places of exile.

Forgive us when our worst
causes hurt and distress,
when our distress destroys
the life you call us into.

silent reflection

Siblings in Christ,
as the exiles were encouraged,
so God invites us into life -
to build houses and live in them;
to plant gardens and eat what they produce.
Jesus reminds us it is our faith
that makes us well.

In the name of Christ,
you are made clean,
you are made well.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the peace

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



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Listening

Read: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7,
2 Timothy 2:8-15,
Luke 17:11-19

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

Reflecting - Rev. Veronica Bradley

Did you know that there are massive health benefits linked to having an attitude of gratitude? Research psychologists Dr Robert Emmons and Dr Michael McCullough did a study of participants in three groups whose task was to write a few sentences on a particular topic each week. Group one was to write about things they were grateful for in the week. Group two wrote about daily irritations or daily things they were not happy about and a third group wrote about events of the week with no stipulation as to whether they were positive or negative events. After a ten-week period it was observed that those who wrote about gratitude were more optimistic and felt better about their lives. They exercised more and went to the doctor less than the other study participants.

Another research psychologist Dr Martin Seligman tested the impact of positive psychology interventions on a group of 411 people who were assigned a writing assignment. One weeks writing assignment was to write and personally deliver a letter to someone who had influenced them positively in their early life and who had not been thanked for their kindness. Of all the positive psychology interventions, this assignment had the greatest impact on participants, hugely increasing the happiness scores and having the greatest impact over time than any other intervention.

In our gospel reading today we hear how Jesus tells ten people with leprosy, who came to him for healing, to go and show themselves to the priest, on the way they discover they are healed.

One person from the group who was healed turns back in gratitude to thank Jesus for his healing.

The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:21 the decline of humanity into futile thinking, senseless and darkened minds was a failure to honour God or to give thanks to him. The verb to give thanks occurs 114 times in scripture. In our Psalm today we are called to sing joyfully to God, to give praise to God. The Psalmist says to "Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals."

Gratitude is an attitude within, a way of seeing things in the world. Thanksgiving is a response to gratitude. In our reading from Jeremiah, we find the people of Israel taken off to Babylonian captivity. They are in danger of succumbing to the five enemies of gratitude.

1. Nostalgia – where glorifying the past causes them to be blind to God's presence with them where they are. God was not confined to the promised land and the temple. God breaks out of our boxes
2. Worry – where their situation and circumstances become their sole focus and they fail to trust God's faithfulness to them despite their unfaithfulness to God.
3. Entitlement – where they believe they are the chosen people exempt from hardship and suffering. We forget none of us deserves God's invitation, but we are all embraced by God's mercy and goodness anyway.
4. Greed – they forgot they were stewards of God's blessing and failed to embody God's justice and mercy and love for the poor and marginalised.
5. Disappointment – where their unmet expectations rob them of seeing God's faithfulness at work in their struggles.

Our passages today highlight gratitude expressed in thanksgiving to God is an act of worship (Rev 11:17). It is one of the ways, one of the most important ways we serve God. Inner gratitude is to be expressed outwardly through thanksgiving. If you are having trouble feeling thankful check



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out this short film by Louie Schwartzberg on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpkEvBtyL7M>

Singing

TiS 107 Sing praise and thanksgiving

Offering

God of all people and all creation,
bless these things we offer to your service.
Join them and us to the welfare of all,
especially those most in need
of the life and nourishment you offer.

Notices

October 10 is World Mental Health day.

Responding:

Prayers for World & Community

God of the prophet Jeremiah,
we hear your call to those in exile
and wonder what it means for people today.

We pray for those who feel exiled from country -
for those impacted by war, drought, famine, a
changing climate, those who are displaced ...

We sing verse 1-2:

TiS 638 O Christ the healer we have come

We pray for those exiled within our own country -
for our First Nations people impacted by
colonisation, for the challenge of finding voice in
a contested space. We pray for those who have
struggled to find a place as refugees here. We
pray for those impacted by the rising cost of
living, and for those struggling to find a place to
call home. Bless our leaders with courage and
insight to govern for the welfare of all.

We sing verses 3-4:

TiS 638 O Christ the healer we have come

We pray for our church in exile. As our
community changes the church has struggled to
maintain strong community connections. In many
ways we are exiles in a foreign land. Bless us as
your pilgrim people, that we may find courage to
follow you as people 'on the way'.

We sing verse 5:

TiS 638 O Christ the healer we have come

In the language of our hearts we pray as Jesus has
called us to:

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 Now thank we all our God

Blessing

Jesus Christ is blessing us on our way.
We are sent with countless gifts of love.
Love to share with this wounded world;
love to guide us when we are perplexed.

Jesus Christ finds us on our way.
He may be found waiting, raging, healing or
dancing in the streets. He is found where our
welfare depends on the welfare of all.

Go now to bless and be blessed in God's name:
Creator, redeemer and sustainer. Amen.



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Other Song Suggestions

TiS 670 Jesus put this song into our hearts
TiS 279 The King of glory comes
TiS 737 Lord Jesus Christ lover of all
TiS 692 Sometimes a healing world is comfort
TiS 629 When I needed a neighbour
TiS 624 Christ be my leader by night as by day
TiS 531 Sent forth by God's blessing
TiS 665 Jesus Christ is waiting

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