



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Show us the path of life
God of unfathomable surprises.
Amidst our confusion and doubt
awaken us to belief,
and through the dewy gardens of dawn
lead us into this new day.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

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 - At the dawning TiS 392

Prayer



*The prayer begins with a sung refrain:
Halle, halle, halle... TiS 720*

For the colours in the sunrise
and the laughter of a child,
magnificent God, **we give you thanks.**

For the caring touch that lifts us,
and the music of the surf,
irrepressible God, **we give you thanks.**

For your presence in all places
crossing boundaries, breaking free,
uncontainable God, **we give you thanks.**

Sung refrain: Halle, halle, halle...

We confess that we lock the doors
of our hearts and our lives,
our love and our churches
thinking we can contain our fear,
apart from the world you love.
Magnificent God, **forgive us.**

We confess that we are afraid of unbelief,
unable to acknowledge our doubts
we hold tight to what we need to know is
right,
even when it causes pain to others.
Irrepressible God, **forgive us.**

We confess that we are hesitant to reach out,
to touch the pain of the world
to see your wounded presence
to risk getting involved...
uncontainable God, **forgive us.**

(time of silence)

Siblings in Christ,
Jesus stands, wounded hands outstretched,
waiting for our touch, our connection,
waiting to gather us in love.
We are blessed, forgiven and made new,
free to grow in faith and kindness.

People's response From Psalm 16:
**The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.**
**The boundary lines have fallen in pleasant
places; I have a goodly heritage.**
**You show me the path of life,
in your presence there is fullness of joy.**
Amen.

Sung refrain: Halle, halle, halle...

Passing the peace

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



Listening

Read: 1 Pt 1:3-9
Jn 20:19-31

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

Reflecting – Rev. Deacon Marian Bisset

It's easy to get caught up in the commercial hype around Easter – hot cross buns, easter eggs, bilbies, the last camping holiday before the winter and so on and at one level I am not sure this is necessarily wrong or right. In a country where religious festivals are increasingly for the few who are already members, it makes sense to utilise a final gasp of summer. Or does it...

This is the opportunity we are given time and time again to be out amongst those who are not inside the physical building. Thomas gives an example of one who needs some proof, some evidence that this is true. The Thomas' of today are many and in unexpected places. They are the ones who attend the local country picnic race meets, or the folk who go away with a group of friends for a break or they are also the people we forget about so easily; lonely, isolated, unable to leave a house for many reasons.

One of the interesting requests from Thomas was about touch. Thomas needed to touch the holes, touch the wounds to experience truth. We are all like that as humans; the first experience we had as newborn babies was touch, and it is likely to be the last experience as we die. It defines the truthful emotion in the mind of the giver and therefore to the receiver. Touch became suddenly a thing of danger and fear overnight 3 years ago and how many of us still think twice before we shake hands, hug someone we are close to offer a hand of comfort to

someone in distress? Touch bears truth and transparency of emotion and when taken away we are left conflicted, wondering where we fit in.

Thomas is often maligned as being the one without faith, but was he? Was he perhaps unable to process what had been happening. We might call it Post Traumatic Stress Injury in today's lingo. How many times have we been paralysed from fear or trauma of a past event and unable to verbalise that or be able to face the trauma? When we meet people in our day to day lives, we meet those who like Thomas may be paralysed by their own trauma and unable to move in any direction. The face of God invites us to walk with them, do we listen?

Jesus came and appeared to the disciples and greeted them in peace, "peace be with you" and breathed the Holy Spirit onto them. The Spirit was present with the disciples at that point and so they were keen to let Thomas know they had seen Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit. I wonder why it was a whole 8 days later before Thomas joined them; we don't know and can only speculate.

The twist at the end of the reading is that the writer shifts focus from narrative to speaking to the reader, then and to us now. Everything is to help us with our unbelief to become belief. It seems so easy, to go to the places we are invited to, filled with the Holy Spirit in the same way as God went out through Jesus.

A friend of mine has a new job and I commented how perfect it was for them and they responded back with how much they love it when they know more people who don't profess faith than those who do! As we



consider the readings from today perhaps that is a lens we can look through.

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Singing - Jesus Christ is waiting, TiS 665

Offering

Bless these gifts we bring. May they be signs of your risen presence and notes of hope, and may we be that also, in each encounter, in each moment, with each breath. Amen.

Notices

April 22nd is Earth Day. You can find more about it here:

Prayers for World & Community

You might want to have a bowl of sand and some taper candles for people to come forward and offer their prayers in the quiet...

Holy God, One in Three, Three in One,
We pray for people of all beliefs,
that their faith will sustain them
and lead them into care and kindness
for the sake of the world you love.

time of quiet

Wounded One,
we pray for all who are hurting.
For people in pain,
in body, mind and spirit.
For those who suffer for their faith,
and those who struggle to find meaning.

time of quiet

Creator of life,
we pray for our planet,
groaning under greed,
struggling to breathe,
abused by misused power.

time of quiet

Spirit of truth,
we pray for our leaders,
for leaders of faith
and our own church leaders,
for leaders of nations
and states and communities,
for leaders of thought
and new ways of living,
for leaders of our young ones
bringing hope for the future.

time of quiet

Holy God, One in Three, Three in One,
we pray for ourselves and each other,
for the people sitting near to us,
for the ones who are far from us,
and for those we hold in our hearts.

time of quiet

We pray together 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 – Lord of the dance TiS 242



Blessing

Show us the path of life
God of unfathomable surprises.
Amidst our confusion and doubt
awaken us to belief,
lead us across the boundaries of possibility,
and into life.

Go knowing that you are loved
by the risen Christ,
who was sent to show us
how to love and how to live,
and breathed the Spirit for us,
as companion and guide,

Go in love, to serve God,
In the name of Christ, Amen.

Singing – Send me Jesus, TiS 749

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