



Pentecost Sunday - May 28th, 2023 **The Fig Tree Worship Resource**

Please note: Today is also Reconciliation Sunday in the Uniting Church, as it falls in Reconciliation Week, May 27th - to June 3rd. There's a worship resource available (written in 2020) from the Synod of SA that coincides with the celebration of Pentecost.

[Reconciliation Sunday Worship Resource 2020 final.pdf](#)

There are also some excellent resources for personal and church use at Common Grace: <https://www.commongrace.org.au/reconciliation-week-2023>

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. **Acts 2:1-4(NIV)**

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pour out your Spirit upon us.

Come, Holy Spirit, come

Speak to our hearts, minds and souls.

Come, Holy Spirit, come

That we may be changed, enlivened and renewed

Come, Holy Spirit, come

Bless us, and make us people who are a blessing to others

Come, Holy Spirit, come

Renew your whole creation.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this Land and her Peoples. From time beyond our reckoning, the People have blessed this place through their care and concern.

We pay our respects to their Elders and Leaders, past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land. (- UCA Assembly)

Singing - Let all creation dance TiS 187

OR: TiS 263 - The bright wind is blowing

Or TiS 135 - All things bright and beautiful



Prayer

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

On this Pentecost day, O God,
we praise and thank you
for the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Your Holy Spirit enables us
to know and experience your love and presence.
Your Holy Spirit transforms, empowers,
heals and sustains us.
Your Holy Spirit gives us hope
in the face of hopelessness,
peace in times of conflict,
and courage when all seems lost.
For all this, we praise and glorify you.

Help us to always be open to the guidance of
your Holy Spirit,
which you offer freely to us all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living and Gracious God,
Your Holy Spirit blows into our lives,
opening our hearts to your word,
opening us to wonder and new possibilities,



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and calling us to service,
but often
we are reluctant to embrace your calling,
**Forgive us, and restore us
through the power of your Holy Spirit.**

Living and Gracious God,
Your Holy Spirit blows into our lives,
Opening our eyes and ears to injustice,
And revealing the needs
of the community around us,
but often we are overwhelmed
and do little or nothing,
**Forgive us, and restore us
through the power of your Holy Spirit.**

Living and Gracious God,
Your Holy Spirit blows into our lives,
Calling us to be peacemakers
and agents of reconciliation,
but often we struggle to make a stand,
**Forgive us, and restore us
through the power of your Holy Spirit.**

Living and Gracious God,
if we have lost the wonder of life
in your Holy Spirit
and we are no longer expecting change,
let alone miracles:
**Forgive us, and restore us
through the power of your Holy Spirit.**

Living and Gracious God,
you have promised that if we confess our sins,
you will grant us forgiveness.
So, we pray, refresh and renew us
with the Holy Spirit
so that we may be faithful disciples
of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Readings: Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23

For these words of faith, and for Jesus the Word,
We give our thanks and praise.

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

Last weekend, I went to soccer with my grandchildren. It was a windy day and the shades that had been erected were, for me, at waist height. I climbed under and sat in my chair to watch. One of the children stood up to go on the field and hit their head on the frame. I heard my neighbour, an African woman who works with my daughter, say: "sorry, sorry". I was back in my childhood, a small girl running with my brothers, I fell and scraped my knee, I remember those words as a stranger, a black woman picked me up, dusted me off, all the time comforting me with the words: "sorry, sorry". Many years later I felt the tears as I heard the language of my childhood, I felt the familiarity and comfort.

Familiar language takes us to a different place. The disciples spoke in the many languages of the strangers, Jews of the diaspora, coming to Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost. Some didn't hear and thought the disciples were drunk, but those who were ready, with open ears heard them telling of "God's works of power".

I wonder what they heard, what do we think of as "God's works of power"? If we go to the Old Testament, we think of Creation, the Exodus, the stories of God's people, these would have been stories the crowd knew and found reassuring. But maybe it was the story of Jesus and the signs he had performed, whatever they heard they were changed, amazed and wanted to know more. So Peter spoke to them through the prophecy of Joel. In this time when God breaks into history, God calls on old and young



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men, sons and daughters, slaves, men and women an inclusive call.

Everyone who stood in the crowd had the opportunity to hear and respond. Many did, the early church began and has continued, there are still those who hear and God fills with the Spirit. Peter tells them and us that “anyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” We are not an exclusive club that decides on the membership. I’m sure Peter and the disciples did not make a list of names and addresses, anyone who heard and responded became part of God’s community.

This is challenging for us in these days of the institutional church, we need people to be members and then support the institution so that it can continue. But this is not the picture we get from that Day of Pentecost described in Acts. Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, is part of God’s community and is filled with the Spirit and thus has gifts that God gives them. We hear of these in Corinthians. We are given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues. We are one body that uses these gifts for the good of God’s creation and all in it, how can we be that body, that community today?

I was reminded in the words of a different but familiar language, English, but in a different culture and I felt the love and comfort of a stranger. My job, your job, is to speak in whatever language we can use to care for the stranger, who may hear God’s voice and respond.

Singing - TIS 409; O breath of life come sweeping through us

OR: There’s a Spirit in the air TiS 414

OR: Faith will not grow from words alone - TiS 691

Offering

You have put your love in our hearts, O God, through your Holy Spirit.

We want to share this love with the world.

So may this offering be a sign of this intention. Amen.

Notices

27 May - 3 June

Be a Voice for Generations #NRW2023

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, Be a Voice for Generations, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, let’s choose to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

Prayers for World & Community

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Renew your whole creation.

Pour yourself upon us once more, just as you came to those gathered in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost, for we need your courage and guidance in our lives.

We pray that you might bring healing and hope to the broken places of our world. We pray especially for those communities caught up in conflict and war including those in The Ukraine, South Sudan, Syria, Gaza, and the West Bank. We pray for refugees, and for aid agencies seeking to help. We also pray that you will raise up peacemakers among the leaders of the world, that there may be a commitment to ending conflict.

We pray for our nation. We pray for our leaders, politicians and councillors. We pray that they



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may serve our communities and nation with justice, compassion and integrity.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Renew your whole creation.

We pray for all who have suffered through floods, cyclones, and drought. We pray that they might get the assistance they need, and that they may have the courage and strength to rebuild their lives, businesses and homes

We pray for teachers and principals in our schools, TAFE's and universities that they may have a passion and commitment to teach and nurture the young, and not lose heart.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Renew your whole creation.

We pray also for the Police, for Paramedics, the CFA, SES, hospital emergency department workers and all other frontline workers who seek to keep our community safe. Keep them safe, give them strength and courage, and heal them when they suffer trauma.

And we pray for those who care for the elderly. Give them love and compassion that they may care for the frail and vulnerable with integrity and kindness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Renew your whole creation.

And we pray for your Church, may our hearts be stirred for the work of love to which you call us and the hope of the world for which we labour, as 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 - Filled with the Spirit's power TiS 411

OR: Come down O love divine TiS 398

OR: Breathe on me breath of God TiS 407

Blessing

God's Holy Spirit calls us
to be people of justice, peace and love.

May we seek to be faithful to our calling.

God's Holy Spirit calls us to prayer,

May we be people who seek God's guidance.

God's Holy Spirit calls us to ministry.

May we be a blessing to the world.

God's Holy Spirit calls us out into the world,

**Let us go, knowing that God's Holy Spirit
will empower and sustain us.**

Blessing song: - Send me Jesus, TiS 749

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