



Trinity Sunday, June 4th, 2023 **The Fig Tree Worship Resource**

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Genesis 1:1-4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this land by those who have cared for this Land since time beyond measure.

We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come.

May we be mindful of the calling God places on humanity to care for creation.

May we take the lead from the ... people whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them.

UCA Assembly

Singing - Creator, Companion, Comforter

*Tune: Morning Has Broken. BUNESSAN TIS 156
(c) Craig Mitchell, 2010.*

God of Creation,
gentle life-giver,
present at birth, and
all through our days.
Author of sunrise,
song in the night sky,
here in this place, we
offer our praise.

Jesus, Companion,
teacher and healer,
friend of the grieving,
suffering, the poor.
Stand with your people,
whisper among us,
promise of mercy,
goodness for all.

Spirit of Comfort,
blow through Creation,
stir up new life, breathe
peace through our world.
Healer of hearts, and
hope for tomorrow,
weave all our sorrows
into new dawn.

Here we give thanks for
life in its fullness,
blessings received,
your gifts to us all.
Make us a people
filled with compassion,
selflessly giving,
serving your world.



Prayer

Loving Lord, we come to you today remembering that you are the Creator. We are born, live and die as part of creation. As we see the beauty of the changing seasons, we sit in wonder and thank you for what you have given us.

We thank you for the waters, the sea, lakes, rivers, glaciers, icebergs and puddles, may we use water thoughtfully and care for it.

We thank you for the land, continents and islands, mountains and valleys, deserts and



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marshes, the lands we love and call our own. May we tread lightly and use the land with care.

We thank for you for the vegetation, from the cactus to the giant gum tree, the living creatures, from the mosquito to the whale. We are awed by the variety and plenty.

We thank you for the creation of humankind, ourselves, thinking, creative beings may we be loving, caring, generous and merciful.

We acknowledge that we have not always care for creation as we ought, forgive us and grant us the insight to do what is right.

In Jesus name, we pray.

**We are forgiven and free,
mandated to love as we are loved,
Thanks be to God, Amen.**

Passing the peace

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

Listening

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8 (responsive)

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their

feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

Reflecting – Rev. Arnie Wierenga

I remember from childhood a preacher labouring over water as an analogy of the Trinity. He spoke of the three states of water – solid, liquid, gas – as like Father-Son-Spirit. One substance in three states. One God in three persons.

I recall it didn't make a lot of sense to me. To think of the Trinity as a riddle to be captured or solved doesn't match how I understand God. I suppose the world is made up of diverse people and part of that gift is that we look, see, think in different ways. Both engineer and artist see and bring different things to the world. The bible is complex and varied in its library of 66 books, taking us on a journey of history, culture, experience and the struggle to know God.

I think I discover God through experience. Every day I look to the heavens as a kind of cosmic compass. I'm aware of sunrise and sunset and changes through the year. I'm aware of the night sky and the way the Southern Cross will always point south if you can follow its map. I love nothing more than getting away from night lights and gazing in awe at the milky part of the Milky Way galaxy.

Scripture is also rich with witness to awe and majesty of creation.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the
face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and
there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and



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God separated the light from the darkness.

from Genesis 1

Likewise, many of the psalms are hymns of praise.

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

from Psalm 121

The bible is rich with insight and blessing because it invites us into the struggles of following God, and the diverse ways in taking that journey. And when it comes to learning from Jesus, it is the closest we get to experiencing the person who lived in the ancient near east two millennia ago. While the gospels chronicle his life fairly closely, his impact and a broader witness to him fill the remainder of the New Testament.

But devout reading or scholarship hardly captures the impact of Jesus on me personally.

Last week we celebrated the day of Pentecost. The gospel reading has Jesus saying to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20)

This is difficult to put language to. But as am drawn to awe by gazing at the night sky, so I am moved by a sense of breath, power and spirit that makes it seem as though Jesus is directly present with me. I feel as though the risen Christ is breathing peace and offering me the same Holy Spirit.

Perhaps I am more artist than engineer. The formula of water doesn't resonate with me as it does others. But the Orthodox icon of the Trinity by Andrei Rublev draws me into the nature of God like no formula does. It invites us to think about a dynamic relationship that is open to those who seek God. From this comes the word perichoresis which means dancing together. This is fluid, complementary, cooperative and invitational.

Thank God for the diversity of Scripture and the diverse ways in which people continue to follow faithfully the Lord our God who is one but experienced as Trinity. Father-Son-Spirit (note these are descriptions of relationship); Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer; Source-Son-Spirit.

Singing- At the dawning of salvation TIS 392

OR: Praise with joy the world's creator - TIS 179

Offering

In enthusiasm and hope,
In humility and community
In trust and expectation
We make our offering to God

Notices

Today we remember the 1989: Tiananmen Square Massacre.

June 5th is World Environment Day. World Environment Day 2023 is a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters. The steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution are the consequence of this action. It is time to accelerate this action and transition to a circular economy. It is time to #BeatPlasticPollution.

- [World Environment Day](#)

June 8th is World Oceans Day - One ocean, One climate, One future together: [World Ocean Day](#)

Prayers for World & Community

O Lord our God, You hear our prayers, before we speak, And answer before we know our need. May your Spirit pray in us drawing us to you and our neighbours. We pray for our world, as your creation. We ask for your care for people living in areas of natural disasters. We pray for those living with violence, from war, unfair government, inequitable sharing of resources and within families and communities. We pray for our country in this time of considering how we move forward, may all understand the need for reconciliation. Be present with each person as they deliberate their vote.

We pray for our church, for all who serve in Assembly, Synod, Presbytery and congregations. May we care for each other and our communities.



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We pray for ourselves, those we live and work with and those close to us.

We pray together then 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 - Sent forth by God's blessing TiS 531

OR: Filled with the Spirit's power TiS 411

Blessing

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, siblings, farewell. Put things in order,
listen to my appeal, agree with one another,
live in peace;
and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Blessing Song: Father bless us as we go -TiS 781

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