



**Call to worship & Lighting the Candle**

Gathered are we!  
We are assembled as one body in communion  
with Christ,  
called to congregate with God at our centre.  
In the power of the Spirit  
we are blessed to learn from Christ our teacher  
and from each other,  
God's people together on the way!  
**Let us worship God in peace and hope.**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
*John 8:12*  
**The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness did not overtake it.**  
*John 1:5*

**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 - Joyful, joyful TiS 152**

OR: Let all creation dance TiS 187

**Prayer**



Let us pray,  
God of the weary and heavy laden,  
in you we can rest and share our load.  
*silence*

Christ our teacher,  
in you we find our own heart for all God's  
beloved.  
*silence*

Spirit of Truth,  
in you God's reconciling love makes traction  
in the world.  
*silence*

Loving God, Three in One,  
You are the giver of life  
in all its goodness and ambiguities.  
We trust in your transforming love,  
Giving you our thanks and praise.  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession**

Confident of God's grace and mercy we lay  
bare our confession.

Let us pray,  
Merciful and loving God,  
For some of us the burden we carry is shame,  
shame for words said and the tone in which  
they were delivered.  
shame for words unsaid, the silence weighing  
heavily.  
Be with us in our shame and bring us closer to  
you.

For some of us the burden we carry is acute  
embarrassment,  
embarrassment for actions taken in ignorance  
of their impact on others,  
embarrassment for deeds of mischief or  
destruction out of spite or rage.  
Be with us in our embarrassment and bring us  
closer to you.

For some of us the burden we carry is denial;  
denial of deep truths of our being,  
denial of past transgressions,  
denial of the full humanity of others.  
Be with us in our denial and bring us closer to  
you and our own truth.

For these and other burdens we offer them to  
you,  
Trusting in your forgiveness and reconciling  
love.  
In Jesus' name we pray.



## Sunday July 9th, 2023

### The Fig Tree Worship Resource

#### Words of Assurance

Jesus said,

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”

Mistakes are expected

God’s forgiveness is given to all who ask.

We are forgiven out of God’s love for us.

And we are empowered to love and forgive others.

**Praise be to God!**

**Amen!**

#### Passing the peace

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

#### Listening

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Read: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

For these words of faith

and for Jesus the Word

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Reflecting -

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*One, two, three, one two, three.... If you are a dancer you will know that this is likely to be the count for a waltz. Hold that thought.*

*How light does the burden feel right now? Are you breezing through life without a care or does your heart feel heavy?*

*Reading this passage in Matthew makes me think I am in the category of “the wise” since the meaning is a little murky. For although, young people seem to have so much more understanding of these simple concepts, I wonder what it means that “wisdom is vindicated by her deeds”. It seems that it is following the way of Jesus that reveals God to us, that being open and inclusive shows us the nature of God.*

*Looking at the other lectionary readings ,the message seems to be asking us to say “yes” to God’s call on our lives. Certainly it is the message of the Genesis reading. Rebekah and Isaac and the servant, all seem to be following the pattern set before them quite willingly. “I will” says Rebekah fitting the pattern of saying “yes” to God, echoed by Mary many years later. But the passage in Matthew seems to quickly flip to a description of what following Jesus, of being a disciple offers us. And it is a restful place.*

*Matthew’s passage begins with a description of dancing to a pattern, of commanding that which refuses to be commanded. And Paul’s letter also describes things not going to plan. He tries to do it ‘right’ but the chaos keeps following him like a shadow. He is trying to follow his own dance steps and is completely out of rhythm. Both images describe not being in control. We are to expect the unexpected, and be prepared to welcome the interruptions as the stirring of the Spirit.*

*We are expected to dance to a different tune. But we are also given the assurance that God is the one who knows our dance steps and wrote the song. God invites us to dance. And it is through the following of the pattern of God’s dance that the nature of God, and the relationship that is God, is revealed to us. “Dance, dance, wherever you may be”, know that when we fit our steps to God’s dance, we have renewed energy and are given rest and refreshment in full measure. I am not a fan of dancing programs but even seeing the ads, it is clear that some have rhythm and some don’t. Yet letting go of rigid patterns, good and well chosen choreography, and following a good partner (and accepting their leading), seems to lend hidden gracefulness in the dancing.*

*Are you letting God lead or trying to manipulate the steps? Lean into the leading of the Spirit and follow the patterns and rhythms of the Spirit. And in there is rest and gentleness and humility and peace.*

*A prayer from UIW 2: Let us take on this day’s work with renewed hope and imagination. Let us trust that God who created life out of nothingness is creating life anew in our very midst. May all that we say and do this day be said and done for the*



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*love of Christ and in the leaping dance of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

**Affirmation of faith**

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**The Beatitudes *alt.* (Uniting in Worship 2 )**  
(Matthew 5:1-12)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the gentle,  
**for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right,

**for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they will receive mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**for they will see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they will be called children of God.**

**Singing** *Lord of the Dance. TIS 242*  
OR: I heard the voice of Jesus say, TIS 585

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**Offering**

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**Notices**

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**Prayers for World & Community**

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Let us pray,  
Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
May the way of your justice be followed by all  
peoples of the world!

We pray for justice in all places:  
for people trapped in poverty  
for people ensnared by predatory  
lending practices

May your heavenly will be done by all created  
beings!  
May your commonwealth of peace and  
freedom come on earth.

We pray for God's reign on earth.  
for people to cooperate to live on this  
planet in a sustainable way.  
for people to live with dignity and  
respect, especially First Nations peoples.

We pray that basic needs may be met:  
for people existing on refugee rations  
for people who are starving in war torn  
countries  
for people afflicted by natural disasters  
We pray for those charged with delivering  
humanitarian aid.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

We pray for ourselves:  
for frayed and fractured relationships  
for people grieving  
for our church and community.

May we extend your community of love  
Amen.

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord's Prayer**

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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.



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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 - Jesus Christ is waiting TiS 665***

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OR: Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, TiS 417

***Blessing***

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**Words of Mission**

Sent are we!

We are sent as one body in communion with  
Christ, sent into the world with God as our  
compass.

In the power of the Spirit,  
we are sent to wear the yoke of mercy and  
compassion, sent to share in the burdens of  
others,  
and sent to proclaim the mystery of God's  
saving grace.

**In peace and in love we are sent!**

**Blessing** (*UiW2* p.223)

The love of God enfold you,  
the wisdom of Christ enlighten you,  
and fire of the Spirit inflame you;  
and may the blessing of the holy triune God

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