



Weekly Worship



Pentecost 6
Sunday July 09, 2023

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.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

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.

Prayer continues

Weekly Worship. Season of Pentecost 2023. Presbytery of Gippsland, Fig Tree Worship Resource



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



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Prayer continues

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 to you,
trusting in your forgiveness and reconciling love.
In Jesus' name we pray.

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

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

Listening

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

Rev. Wendy Elson

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.

Reflecting continues

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Reflecting continues

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

Affirmation of faith

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

“Dance then, wherever you may be.” Today we give thanks - maybe with a dance, a jig or a smile - for all the places we have been this week. God has been with us in cafes, workplaces, schools, retirement villages and our homes. Look at your feet or shoes and think of all the places they have been. Give thanks for those places, the money in the plate, and the places the gospel is offered by those who have joined the dance.

Notices

Today marks the end of Naidoc week, with the theme “For our Elders”. If you have an opportunity, check out the winning 2023 Naidoc poster and video of the artist, Bobbi Lockyer. www.naidoc.org.au/2023-poster. What gratitude do you feel as you look at it? What other feelings does the poster evoke in you?

Responding: Prayers for World & Community

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

**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 for ever. Amen.**





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Singing: Jesus Christ is waiting

TiS 665

OR: Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, TiS 417



Blessing

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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