



## Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

The steadfast love and faithfulness of God endures forever.

God's hand is stretched out toward you,  
God beckons you  
into the presence of the gathered.

Come and worship with a heart  
that is whole and undivided.  
Come and be renewed and refreshed.

*Light the candle - Christ is with us.*

As the candle is awakened this morning,  
come with hearts awake and alive,  
hearts that are renewed and restored.  
As the candle flickers and gathers strength,  
remember the God  
who strengthens your heart.

## Acknowledging

This day we pay particular attention to the acknowledgement and attend carefully to the words we say. As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded land and 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. Now, more than ever, may we live in right relationship with all of your people and with the land and the creatures around us.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

## Singing: Thank you TiS 162

OR: Morning has broken TiS 156



## Prayer

When I call attentive God,  
you answer me and you strengthen my soul.  
Living, loving God,  
Our hearts are drawn toward you  
and we give you thanks.  
We sing praises to you.

Even when we walk in the troubled times,  
you take care of us.  
Though you are exalted,  
you tend to the lowly ones  
with care and compassion.

Sometimes we respond  
by trying to move ahead of you.  
Sometimes we act as though  
you are not enough  
and want what we think others have.

We focus on fleeting things,  
transient, unimportant things,  
on the things which we can see,  
while neglecting the unseen things.

We make differences and separations  
where there need be none.

Bring us into rich and deep relationship  
with each other  
and with you we pray.

Fulfil your purpose for us  
and hold us in your steadfast,  
enduring and faithful love.

Your word assures us of your forgiveness.  
Grace and gratitude abound, for you are faithful.

Dear ones be assured,  
we are loved and forgiven.

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Weekly Worship. Season of Pentecost 2024. A Worship Resource from Friends of the Fig Tree.



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



## Passing the peace

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

## Listening

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

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

## Reflecting

**Rev. Moira Dodsworth**

In my church experience, there are always disagreements, some minor about whose turn it is to do the flowers, can we move the pews? Others more serious about theology and behaviour. All need to be dealt with, at least talked through. Maybe we need a clear roster, maybe agree to differ, or seriously consider our mission and make new decisions together. However, it is always important to discern, consider, discuss and pray we are all God's people.

After Jesus performs miracles, calls the disciples so that they might be sent out to preach and to cast out demons (Mark 19), he went home. And the crowd followed, in such large numbers that they could not eat. His family tried to restrain him as people were saying "He has gone out of his mind". Jesus' family were concerned, maybe this was true, Jesus was out of his mind. There was obviously disagreement about who Jesus was and with what power he is healing and performing miracles.

The religious authorities are concerned. The Scribes have come down from Jerusalem to sort out this problem, they maintain that Jesus is using the power of demons to cast out demons. Jesus does not argue with them, quote scripture or perform more signs, he uses logical argument: "How can Satan cast out Satan?" He unmasks the contradictions in the Scribes' thinking. Love is what casts out fear. Jesus' healing hand is reaching out with the awesome and radical power of grace and love.

Jesus talks then in parables how a house divided cannot stand. If we look at our churches today, we are divided. It is wonderful when we come together ecumenically and we find that often we have lots in common, we enjoy each other's company and together we are stronger. They shall know we are Christians by our love, if only we, as the disciples at work could have this impact on our institutions, it's the work on the ground that matters – loving, caring, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless. Jesus comes to awaken a counter-vision, a new way of being and living together, he cannot change the Scribes, so he invites the people into another way of living.

Jesus continues to teach the crowds and his family turns up again. Kinship was the backbone of society in many ancient societies and for Mark this part of the social order is part of what Jesus comes to overturn. Mark's is the gospel that does not include or place importance on genealogies. Jesus will not go to his family, they did after all try to "restrain" him. This social order is not important as it implies insiders and outsiders, something that Jesus' teaching does not allow, he goes to the outskirts of society.

Jesus tells the crowds, those who sat around him that those who claimed him as family were not his "mother and brother", they did not have special claims on him, it is those who listen, who "do the will of God" who are Jesus' community, his "mob".

Jesus overturns traditional beliefs and structures, then, in his time as the earthly Messiah, and now. If we are God's people, whose behaviour and example do we follow?

*Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. (Mark 3:35)*

## Singing: Seek ye first **TiS 745**

OR: *There's a Spirit in the air TiS 414*







## Offering

2 Corinthians 4 v 15 says - *Grace increases thanksgiving as it extends to more and more people to the glory of God.*

Loving God, we take time to think of all the generous blessings in our lives. We give special thanks for those who gather near and far in your name this day. When we practice gratitude, we recognise you give us so much in your steadfast love.

Help us to honour your creation, from which we gain so much of our daily sustenance. We pray that these gifts we bring will be used to share with our 'kin'. What more might we share of our gifts this day? Bless us and our gifts we pray.

## Notices

June 12 is the World Day against Child Labour  
[www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour](http://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour)

June 12 is also the day in 1988 when the Barunga Statement was presented by Aboriginal leaders.  
[aiatsis.gov.au/explore/barunga-statement](http://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/barunga-statement)

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness day.  
[elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/](http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/)

## Responding: Prayers for World & Community

Inclusive, expansive God,  
You have extended what we thought of as family.  
Those with whom we share life, those who gather as your people, these are your kin.  
United in solidarity we stand together, for divided in our faith we fall away and scatter.  
AND SO ... these are our kin.

We stand with those who are hurting amongst us this day. Those who are here with us or are of our community but absent this day. We pray for those who grieve or suffer pain or ill health.  
AND SO .... we hold those who are hurting.

We stand with those who are part of our wider community. Those who are homeless, who know the grind of the cycle of poverty. We pray for those who are facing insecurity in food or shelter. We pray for those who just need to have some support and feel that no one is there for them.  
AND SO ... lead us to the lonely.

We pray for those in our country who are voiceless and powerless. For those in despair, for those facing unemployment or under employment. For the traumatised and those who feel passed by.  
AND SO ... help us to listen.

We pray for those across our world who suffer. Those in conflict zones. Those in famine or suffering the effects of other food shortages. We pray for those injured and dying and losing their loved ones.  
AND SO ... let us stand against injustice.

We pray for our governments and our leaders. Let us always remember the poor and the "least of these", for it is always the vulnerable who suffer when things get tough. We think of programs that are meant to care for the "little ones", programs such as the NDIS and other supports. Help us to keep these programs accountable so that they truly serve those for whom they exist. We pray for those who need support in their ageing, that the supports will be readily available and accessible.  
AND SO ... let us stand for justice, for right relationship.

As Reconciliation Week activity winds down, we continue to commit to pray and to seek reconciliation between First and Second Peoples. We commit to listen deeply, to be respectful and truthful even when it is costly. For truly God, when we stand together in solidarity and in our faith in you, we flourish. When we foster division and separation, we all are diminished. For we are family, we are kin.

Gracious God we pray for grace,  
grace and more grace.  
In the name of God, one in community,  
Amen.

*Prayer continues*

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*Prayer continues*

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: Brother, sister TiS 650

*OR: Community of Christ TiS 473*

## Blessing

Go out to be the revelation of God  
in each and every moment of your lives.  
Go out in gratitude to show  
and to share the Grace of God.  
The faithful Spirit will go with you,  
enabling you to show up and speak up!

And may you know the renewing, refreshing  
presence of God surrounding you as you go.  
Go in peace and in grace  
to love and to serve in the name of God.

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