



**Weekly Worship**



**Sunday July 07, 2024**

## Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Great is the Lord,  
and greatly to be praised.

### **We come to praise God.**

Jesus called disciples to follow him,  
and serve him in the world.

### **We seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ too.**

We come in faith and hope,  
**knowing that God is our God  
forever and ever.**

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

### **Acknowledging**

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.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

## Singing: Lord of creation TIS 626

OR: Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty TIS 132



## Prayer

Great are you, O God, worthy of praise, glory, and honour. On this winter's morning we come to worship you, and to focus on your creative and sustaining love.

We come seeking to be guided, encouraged, and uplifted. So, we pray, enlighten, strengthen, and equip us. We want be your faithful servants, but we know that we need your love and power in our lives so that we can fulfil your commands.

Loving God, Jesus called disciples, equipped them, and sent them out to do your work.

Today, you likewise call and equip us, your modern-day followers, and send us to do your work of proclaiming the Gospel, healing, serving, and loving.

When we are reluctant to do your work and fail to recognize the gifts that lie within us,  
**forgive us.**

When we are to unwilling to hear your voice calling us by name, for fear of what task that voice might be calling us to do,  
**forgive us.**

When we are full of woes and lament the challenges we face rather than seeking your guidance and trusting in your provision of what we need,  
**forgive us.**

When we fail to encourage and celebrate the gifts of others,  
**forgive us.**

When we do not get on with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and are competitive rather than co-operative with other churches,  
**forgive us.**

When we are pessimistic about the future of your Church,  
**remind us that you have promised to  
always be there.**

*Prayer continues*

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



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SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



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*Prayer continues*

May your Holy Spirit break into our lives, surprise us with your wondrous presence, and calm all our fears.

**We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

We do not always succeed. Like Paul we lament our weaknesses. But we hear the words given by the Lord to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

*2 Corinthians 12:9a*

So, we trust in God's love, grace, forgiveness, and strength. **Thanks be to God.**

## Passing the peace

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

## Listening

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 &  
Mark 6:1-13

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

## Reflecting

**Rev. Jennie Gordon**

### **Homeward Bound**

*Mark 6:4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."*

You can trust your family to bring you down to earth, that's for sure. No matter how well you're doing in your career, amongst your peers, in social circles or any other circle, when it comes to family, almost always you will be levelled out and not singled out. Families have a way of equalising, homogenising so no one can rise to the top. That's not always a bad thing, but it can mean that we miss out on the blessings from our siblings that others not so connected might enjoy.

Jesus encounters this dynamic in the synagogue in his hometown. Even though they are amazed at his wisdom and power, they can't accept it from him. They want to know where he got it, as if he won it in a late-night poker game or stole it from a sleeping giant. They want to know where he got it, because they've been trying to get it their whole lives and maybe they just haven't looked in the right place. They want to know where he got it because it makes them feel less important than Jesus, who, really, is just a hometown boy, and that's extremely uncomfortable.

*Who do we dismiss because we know them too well, or think we know them too well and what is the cost, what have we lost?*

*How does it feel when your gifts are not received because someone is stuck in a preconceived idea of who you are or what you are after?*

*Where are the signposts that we are not willing to read because of our unexamined assumptions about who is holding the sign?*

*Have we domesticated Jesus to the point where he is simply our big-brother-hometown hero, and we dismiss the disturbingly wise and miraculous presence of the healing holy?*

Jesus responds to being dishonoured, not with anger, but with amazement, and continues his teaching tour, with a few small healings of the sick. Then he sends out the twelve, with power and nothing else, to continue the work that he has begun. He responds to being dismissed by multiplying his capacity in the actions of the ones around him, and it works. No need to go back to the synagogue and point that out, no doubt, word would have got around already.

'Take nothing,' Jesus says to the twelve but not to us, because we have so much and we can't leave it behind. We have traditions, expectations, regulations and property. How do we, who are a pilgrim people on the way, hear these words of Jesus?

*Reflecting continues*

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*Reflecting continues*

In a conversation about how we can make a difference to the very difficult reality of homelessness in our area, I asked an intake worker what we could do when we find someone sleeping rough on the back porch of the church. The quick and simple reply, "Unlock the door."

We can get so complacent and distracted about knowing who we are, and protecting who we are, that we miss the sending of Jesus when it is right before us. We forget that we have been given the power to help and to heal. We can fail to reach out because our arms are too occupied with holding on to what we think we need. Yet, each time we do connect with someone who is isolated, each time we allow a healing hand to rest on a point of pain, each time we listen with care and without interrupting, we light a candle in the darkness of despair, we bring hope, we make miracles happen. We do the awesome work of Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ, and he is among us. May it be so, Amen.

### **Singing: Inspired by love and anger TIS 674**

*OR: When I needed a neighbour TIS 629*

*OR: How firm a foundation TIS 578*

*OR: Master speak TIS 597*



### **Offering**

We bring our gifts and our lives, O God, praying that your Spirit might work in us to build your kingdom here on earth. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Notices**

NAIDOC week begins today (July 7-14).

See: [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au).

July 11 is world population day.

### **Responding: Prayers for World & Community**

God who loves and created us all, and who loves and created this world, indeed the whole universe, we praise you knowing that everyone and everything has a place in your heart.

Give us your grace and love that we may see the world through your eyes, with compassion, mercy, justice, and love, and seek to serve where you would have us serve.

Teach us Lord, to trust that we will be strong enough to make a difference, even though we are weak, and often burdened.

Lord, we pray for all who have been given the task of leadership, that they might seek to do their best and lead with humility and justice.

We pray for politicians, councillors, CEOs and managers, ministers, worship leaders, elders, church councillors, and all whose roles give them the opportunity to make a difference.

**Guide and strengthen all people in your unfailing love.**

Lord, we pray for all who are struggling financially, for those who are unemployed, for those who are homeless, for those addicted to alcohol, drugs, gambling. Help them to not give into despair, but rather to seek help to turn their lives around. May they find the support they need.

**Guide and strengthen all people in your unfailing love.**

*Prayer continues*

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Lord, we pray for all who are ill, especially those suffering chronic illness. Be with those undertaking treatment or recovering from surgery. Be with all struggling with mental illness.

Guide and sustain all hospital and nursing home workers, paramedics and ambulance officers, and community carers, that they may treat all patients to the best of their ability.

**Guide and strengthen all people in your unfailing love.**

Lord, we pray for all who are caught up in war and conflict, and those have been displaced from their homes and live in refugee camps. Be with political prisoners and with all who are oppressed and who dare not speak their faith or opinion. Be with all peacemakers, aid workers, and missionaries as they seek to help.

**Guide and strengthen all people in your unfailing love.**

Lord, we pray for all who are coming to the end of their lives and for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Guide and strengthen all people in your unfailing love, and pray that one day we all may rejoice together in your eternal presence.

We ask this in Jesus' name. We now pray together then as he 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: Be thou my vision TiS 547**

OR: *Guide me O thou great redeemer TiS 569*

OR: *Amazing grace TiS 129*



## **Blessing**

We go from this place, trusting that God will guide us each day, confident of Jesus' love and abundant grace for us, and sustained and equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Sending song: Send me Jesus**

**TiS 749**



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