



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday August 29, 2021

Gathering & Lighting the Candle

Song of Solomon 2:13 The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Imagine a tree
bursting with blossom.
Sink your face into the fragrance
and let it overpower you
with deliciousness and possibility.

Imagine that the blossom is love,
bursting forth for the world,
from the source of love.
Sink your life into it and let it overpower you
with deliciousness and possibility.

Light the candle - God is love.

Call to worship

Come away to a time of blessing,
set aside from the everyday.

Come away.

Come away to a space of gratitude,
let thankfulness be the fragrance.

Come away where you are.

Come away to this space of grace,
in the presence of the Holy.

Come away, come away.

Acknowledging

This land, wherever we are, is holy ground. As we gather we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this place. We offer respect to elders past, present and emerging and commit ourselves again, to walking together in justice and truth.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Singing: O great Lover

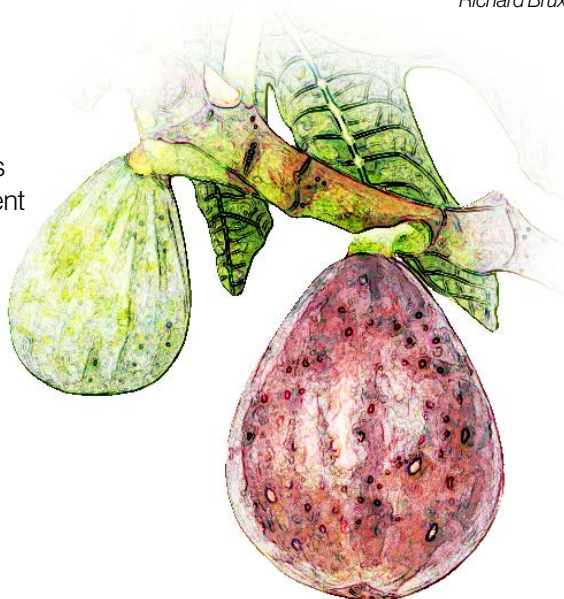
tune: HYFRYDOL **TiS 233**

O Great Lover who pursues us,
come delight to stir our hearts.
Call us back with full devotion
kindle now your fire in us.
Let us scent you, taste your sweetness
carry us away to thrive.
Let us love you ever deeper,
let us hasten to your side.

Bounding o'er the hills you beckon,
"Rise, my love and come away".
Winter's past and Spring is blooming
now has come the time to sing.
Wake the winds upon this garden
waft the fragrance all around.
We with joy to you belonging
dance within your perfect love.

Who is like our great Beloved
now appearing as the dawn?
All of heav'n in grand procession
praise Love's beauty bright as the sun.
Set us as a seal upon you,
troubled hearts will find their rest.
Yours is love to stand harsh waters,
love that lives as strong as death.

'Richard Bruxvoort Colligan





Weekly Worship

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Prayer

Psalm 45:1 My heart overflows with a goodly theme

God of our hearts we thank you,
for nodding daffodils and blossom trees,
for blue skies and dancing lambs,
for the smell of Spring in the air.

In the quiet we bring to you the thoughts, things,
people and possibilities that fill us with hope, with life
and with love...

(keep silence)

**God of our hearts we confess to you,
that we often fail to see your goodness**
because we are too busy looking at ourselves.

**God of our hearts we confess to you,
that we often speak before we listen**
because we think we know so much more.

**God of our hearts we confess to you,
that we often mock others and resist meekness**
because we are too preoccupied with power.

**God of our hearts we confess to you,
that we often forget what we hear from you**
because we are so slow to act when you call.

**God of our hearts we confess to you,
that we fail to care for the vulnerable**
because we are too busy looking after ourselves.

Forgive us, loving One, create in us a clean heart,
and renew a right spirit within us.

Open us to your season of life and hope.

(keep silence)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear this;
God calls us into loving connection,
into the dance of life eternal, here and now.
You are loved and forgiven, known and held
in this heavenly, holy embrace.

Thanks be to God, Amen

Listening

Read: Song of Solomon 2:8-13
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word:

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting

Marian Bisset

“People who need people are the luckiest people
in the world” sang Barbra Streisand about the
tumultuous life of Fanny Price (Funny Girl, 1964).

It is impossible not to be distressed with the stories
and pictures flooding our screens from Afghanistan
over the last few days. The chaotic panic of a
nation whose future stability has changed course
dramatically and where memory of life before
bubbles up through the surface of the present. None
of us has a window into the future and as such it is in
these catastrophic moments, we are reminded of the
present in which we are located. People who need
people.

The rich and colourful poetry from Song of Solomon
describes a relationship between two people and
what is stirred within each of us will be different. For
some, the broken or violent relationship is painful,
for some the passion of first love is felt, for some the
memory of the start of a lifetime together is relived,
and for some, wondering what it means to never
have found such a relationship. It is all of these and yet
it is also more. People who need people.

We are called by God into relationship with God
before we are called into relationship with one
another, and in whom we both give life to and draw
life from. James is clear in his appeal to living in faith
and what living in faith looks like is caring for the
vulnerable in our lives and communities and being
ethical in how we relate to the status quo. We listen
more than speak, we show patience rather than

Reflecting continues





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Reflecting continues

losing our cool, we embody action as well as word. In the action we stand alongside, we share story, we feel another's pain and we long to walk and stand on land together. We are people who need people.

I wonder how often we hand the microphone to the lost voice, to the quiet or contemplative voice, the substance addicted voice, the sex worker voice or homeless voice and hear what God is saying to us through their voices. It is in that which is outside us God dwells and that which is in us is transformed by God's love meeting us. In handing over the microphone and not speaking, we become able to listen and to hear; to be patient because there is no reason not to be; to become part of another person's story, drawn to the Divine presence coming from the other as an embodiment of God, truly Divine and truly Other.

My hope and prayer for us all, is that we hear God's call to faith in action, to love one another and live more than people who need people, but as people who need God.

Singing: The hands of God

TiS 697

All the sleepy should have a place to sleep,
All the hungry should have a place to eat.
All the mourning should have a place to weep.
Does not every child of God deserve a home?

*Make love happen
by God's grace and by God's power.
Let God move you
on this day and in this hour.
New creations
will then blossom like a flower
for together we can be the hands of God
for together we can be the hands of God.*

All who suffer should have a place to heal,
and compassion to ease the pain they feel.
Talk is easy, but who will make love real?
Does not every child of God deserve some peace?

Refrain: Make love happen...

The forgotten should be remembered too.
Lonely people might need a friend or two.
Who would be there if it were me or you?
Does not every child of God deserve some care?

Refrain: Make love happen...

²Rusty (Howard M) Edwards





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Responding: Prayers for the World and Community

Here we offer prayer to you, God who hears us;

For the forgotten people, the rough sleepers,
the secret-keepers, the silent weepers,
those who hide away in fear or shame,
bring healing, bring peace.

For the absent people, the lost ones,
the discarded daughters, the vanished sons,
those whose connection with love and life is gone
bring healing, bring peace.

For the powerful people, the decision makers
the law shapers, the control takers
those who must choose for the good of all
bring healing, bring peace.

For all of us, our family and our friends,
those who know the beloved's voice
and those who long to hear it,
those who have forgotten how sweet it sounds
and those who've never heard it,
**Call to us and we will arise,
to bring healing, to bring peace
in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray;**

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.**

Passing the peace

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

Offering

James 1:17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Accept these gifts, God of abundance, and with them, accept the offering of our lives, as we seek to be your people, loving and caring in the world, Amen.

Notices

Are you in lockdown? How are you? Do you need to phone a friend for conversation or company?

Are you out of lockdown? How are you? Do you need to phone a friend to see how they're coping? We need to keep connected to each other, to look out for each other, to reach out to each other, to ask for help or to offer help. Who can you call today?

Singing: God gives us a future

TiS 687

Words: E J Smith. Tune: 'Camberwell' 65 65D

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God gives us a future daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power
we will let God change us for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday
for God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:
God gives hope and insight
and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action stir us into prayer
till we choose God's life,
and find our future there.





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Blessing

Song of Solomon 2: 11 - 13

*For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing
has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in
our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines
are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my
love, my fair one, and come away.*

As you were called to come away,
so you are sent to go out,
(even if you can't go more than 5 km.)
Go, and be people who bring life;
dance with the blossoms
inhale the fragrant sweetness of Spring
and listen for the voices of the beloved.

Remember that you are loved.
You are a child of God,
who calls you and will not fail you,
and live as if you believe it,
And all the people say Amen!

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