

Some Hymns & Songs for Reconciliation Sunday

Creator God, you made every race

May be sung to the tune: Living Lord, AHB 451 TiS 526

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Creator God, you made every race
giving each your law,
good and true.
We are to worship you, O God,
care for creation in your name,
love and forgive as you love us,
Holy God.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have made us one,
binding each to you,
making peace;
healing the wounds our hands have made;
asking for truth and grace to rule,
justice, respect and loyalty,
Covenant Lord.

Spirit of Christ, present from all time,
guiding, shedding light,
giving life;
Counsellor, make us strong to fight,
Free as the wind to do the right,
ready to follow all the way
yet untrod.

One God in three, bonded strong in love,
reaching out to all,
giving God!
Build in this land community -
black, white and brown, one family-
serving the world your love has made,
God of grace.

Creator God, you made this land

May be sung to the tune: St Petersburg AHB 297 (ii); TIS 375

Words by Keith Pearson © The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress)

1. Creator God, you made this land
and gave to us the gift of life.
You wish that we should live as one,
but we acknowledge sin and strife.
 Let justice everywhere be found,
 Let discord end and love abound.

2. Your covenants of old stand firm,
your ways are faithful, right and just.
Bind us together in your love
to live and work in growing trust.
 Strengthen those ties which keep us true
 to serve each other, serving you.

3. Our Saviour Christ, you came to earth.
You know our joys, our hopes, our pain.
To call us into covenant,
you gave your life and rose again.
 You make us yours, you give us worth
 to be your light in all the earth.

4. Great Spirit in this ancient land,
speak in the stillness deep within.
Remove all prejudice and fear,
give life to all, new hope begin.
 Then help us gently walk as friends,
 while on this land your peace descends.

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

[words Ruth Duck, Tunes TIS 493 or AHB 205 (ii)]

Indigenous people have for over 200 years been the victims of “well meaning” people who thought they knew what was best. Aboriginal people have been preached to, rarely listened to, and even today their voices are drowned out by those who think they know better. The most important advice that can be given to someone meeting an Indigenous person is to close your mouth and listen. And practical reconciliation is together “building a bridge of care”.

We look forward to the day “when the storm is past” and we have true reconciliation in this land.

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God’s name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
we are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light,
in a humble listening spirit,
we would live to God’s delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth’s peoples many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God’s new and glorious dawn.

For You, Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland

(All Together Whatever also in 'Let's Sing it Again CD & Book)

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1997. A Christmas card from Warren and Lorraine Bartlett contained this adapted Celtic (or Gaelic) Blessing. Warren was at that time moderator of the Uniting Church in Victoria, and this blessing had been written for the annual synod of their church. Julie Perrin, a storyteller, had written the words — or rather, she says, 'they were just waiting to be written down'. The song is made really complete with a series of movements devised by Ian Ferguson. (see below)

What a great world you've made. Thanks for this country, Australia. May we be reminded of your presence by whatever we see and feel and hear.

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ

(repeat - last time, sing 'in the name of Christ' 3 times)

FOR YOU - DEEP STILLNESS Movements by Ian Ferguson

"**For you**", Each time these words are sung we extend our arms and hands forward and out in a sweeping gesture of openness and offering

"**deep stillness of the silent inland**" We gently bring our hands in to cradle our belly feeling space and stillness in that place — the heart of our land resounds in the centre of our bodies. We offer that feeling.

"**For you, deep blue of the desert skies**" With our extended arms we trace the arch of the sky and lift our faces to the sky, bathing ourselves in the depth and immensity of it — and we offer that feeling.

"**For you, flame red of the rocks and stones**" We clap on 'red', then form one fist on 'rocks', followed by another on 'stones'. We hold our fists together close in front of us, feeling the bite of the flame and the strength of the rock — and we offer that.

"**For you, sweet water from hidden springs.**" We form a cup with our hands, scoop that water in front of us, then, with a pouring/flowing/circling action we bring our hands to our chest and then to our sides, letting the water flood into our hearts and out to wash over those around us.

"**From the edges seek the heartlands**" We join our hands with those on either side of us and bring our right hand holding our neighbour's left up to our hearts.

"**and when you're burnt by the journey**" Still holding hands we swing our arms down and let our heads hang in a relaxed motion.

"**may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit**" We raise our heads and swing our arms high above our heads, releasing hands as we reach the top.

"**soothe and replenish you.**" We lower our arms slowly down in front of us with a wavelike motion in a gesture of peace.

"**In the name of Christ,**" We cross one arm over our chest.

"**In the name of Christ**" We bring the other arm to join the first and bow our heads with arms crossed over our chests before beginning again on 'for you' with a sweeping gesture of open offering.

Pentecost Prayer

1976. Some songs are written quickly — this wasn't one of them. I understand the Holy Spirit's work as being mainly re-creative: producing faith in people, and the fruits of faith which can largely be summed up under the heading of LOVE. Exotic and unusual things like speaking in tongues and miraculous healings are a fair way down the list. God of creation, God of Easter, God of Pentecost — you're always doing something new. Do something new in each one of us. Make us receptive to your creative touch.

© 1976 Robin Mann 'All Together Now' also in 'Let's Sing it again' CD & Book) used with permission

1. When this earth was created
it was God who spoke the word
and it was done;
gave his warmth to the cold earth —
all was new and all was young,
time had begun.

*Make me warm when I am cold,
make me young when I am old;
move me, touch me inside,
let your love burn in me now.*

2. If I'm rough, make me gentle;
if my words are hard and sharp,
soften this heart.
If I'm weak, make me stronger,
let me look to you for strength
to make a new start.

3. If I'm deaf, break the silence;
if I'm blinded by the dark,
give me your light.
If I'm lame and I stumble,
let me take your hand again
and hold it so tight.

4. If you speak, let me hear you;
help me recognise your voice
everywhere.
If you pass, let me see you;
help me know the face is yours,
help me to care.

You Were In This Place

1987. An Australia Day service is organised each year in the city of Adelaide. For the 200th anniversary of white settlement, repentance was as much in mind as celebration. The story of Jacob's dream at Bethel (the original stairway to heaven!) was central in the service. This song rose out of that story, and especially from Jacob's statement when he wakes up from his dream: "God is in this place, and I didn't know it!"

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1. At the dawn of the ages
you pulled land from the sea.
With your word you invented
all we know, all we see:
creek and desert and forest,
red and grey kangaroo.
You were in this place—
but we never knew.

2. Paintings seen on the rock face,
footprints left in the sand,
campfire next to the river,
songs that rise from the land:
signs that seem so elusive,
shadows just out of view.
You were in this place—
but we never knew.

3. Do we take after Jacob,
blind to what lies at hand,
needing dreams to inform us
God is here in this land?
See him suffering and dying,
bread and wine tell the news.
You were in this place—
but we never knew.

4. Jesus, open our senses,
help us see you today
in the person beside us,
as we work, as we play.
While we love you and serve you,
may it never be true:
you were in this place—
but we never knew.

A Song of reconciliation

This song, a resource for the *Week of Prayer for Reconciliation*, may be sung to AHB 115.

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Let us sing to the God of the covenant,
God who rescued the slaves from fear,
God who says to us, "You are my people
You shall love as I have first loved you."

Chorus: Covenant people! Covenant people!
Worship now the God of steadfast love.
Peace and justice, faithful living,
Bring among us now we pray,

Let us sing of the Word dwelling with us,
Naming outcasts his family,
Humbly taking the form of a servant,
Giving life to us in bread and wine.

Chorus

We will live by the law of the covenant –
Love, respect, solidarity;
Black and white, hand in hand is our motto,
Different ways, but one dream, one God.

Chorus

Love shall cast out all fear from among us,
Love defeat racist hate and wrong;
Love shall heal ancient hurts, broken
spirits,
Love shall fan the dying coals to life.

Chorus

Christ was raised, giving hope of a new start.
Spirit gives life to all who grieve.
God shall yet rule this land with a people
Reconciled, and with the earth at peace.

Chorus

Hear our cry before we call

From *Songs for Pilgrims*, Words: Neil Qunitrell; Music: Norm Inglis
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For downloading music accompaniment see note below

With the recent apology a new era has dawned for many of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, but we need to realise this is only the beginning. We are still longing for the days when the cries of distress are stilled and the sound of weeping is heard no more..... We need to commit for the long haul.

We long for the days when the cries of distress are stilled
and the sound of weeping is heard no more
when the taste of the laughter fills the mouths of the people
and joy is in the land.

*Spirit of a new beginning,
Hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
Give us courage to endure.*

We long for the days when the hammer of arms is hushed
and the threat of warring is feared no more:
when the pulse of freedom fires the hearts of the people
and peace is in the land.

*Spirit of a new tomorrow,
Hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
Give us courage to endure*

We long for the days when the lost of earth are home
And the pain of hunger is felt no more:
When the dream of harvest lights the way of the people
And hope is in the land.

*Spirit of a new creation,
Hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
Give us courage to endure.*

See Download: Music from Songs for Pilgrims

Source of our call

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For downloading music accompaniment see note below

What we ask for and what God gives us may be two different things. When we seek to walk with Aboriginal people we find ourselves on a new journey with a new vision given through God's Holy Spirit. May we follow boldly with lives renewed...

We asked for a home, and you gave us a journey,
faith, like a single flame,
weaving light and shadow on an unknown way.

We asked for a sign and you gave us a vision,
hope like a dancer's hands,
forming shape and substance from tomorrow's day.

Chorus:

*Source of our call, and source of our sustaining,
spin into our dance of time
faithfulness in days of doubt,
that we may follow, follow boldly.*

We asked for a rest, and you gave us a calling,
peace, like an eagle's rise,
lifting doubt and weakness into certainty.

We asked for love, and you gave us community,
trust, like a desert flower,
bringing joy and beauty in its promised spring.

Chorus:

*Source of our call, and source of our sustaining,
renew us by your Spirit rain,
that from the stony days of drought
our lives may rise up, rise up greening.*

See Download: Music from Songs for Pilgrims

Follow the Songlines

From Songs for Pilgrims, Words: Shirley E Murray Music: Douglas Simper
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For downloading music accompaniment see note below

God was in this land before Captain Cook. Through faith we can see the ancient one's dreaming, the Creator Spirit, then and now, calling us to work for God's justice in this land.

Chorus:

*Follow the songlines, follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient one's dreaming
footprints in faith that the track will run true.*

Time beyond time, dream before dreaming,
one Holy Spirit has sung the design;
pathways of peace, widening circles,
music and dance that declare the divine.

Chorus:

Bushfire may flare, searing our courage,
earthquake of doubt shake the words that we pray:
look for the shoots, green growing saplings,
look for the hopeful amid the decay.

Chorus:

New songs be born, sensed by God's longing,
new lines be drawn, in the rock, in the dust,
calling out love, calling out justice,
calling a people to grow and to trust.

Chorus:

See Download: Music from Songs for Pilgrims