

Reconciliation Sunday 26 May 2019 Possible Order of Service

A note for the Introduction to Worship

The Text to "Token of Grief" could be printed separately for people to read while the picture from Amata could go on the front page of the Order of Service.

Reconciliation - Covenanting

Reconciliation begins in the immense love of God, who has continually reached out to reconcile the whole creation to God. That love invites a response from all of us towards God and towards all people, including those from whom we are alienated.

The Uniting Church and the Synod of South Australia is on a journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal Australians. We believe that restoring human relationships is part of God's reconciling mission in our world. Through forgiveness, God's grace works to provide all with hope and a new way of living. This journey of reconciliation is a response to the Bible's call to care for all people including the marginalised and vulnerable.



This painting and the Story could be used to talk about Sorry Day and Reconciliation week.

See separate Word file:

["Token of grief for Christchurch and tears for Sri Lanka"](#).

Didgeridoo music to be played just before beginning of service

Lighting the candles

Song:

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Kurna people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Kurna people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Kurna Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Using words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution

Gathering Prayer

We gather today
in awe and expectation.
We gather in this holy place,
a building consecrated by prayers of the faithful,
a sacred land celebrated by ancient ceremony.
We come to listen
to open ourselves to the new
the new that may come through ageless stories.
We come to listen for wisdom.
We are here.
We are open.
We are ready...

Prayers of who we are

When we look at the stars, we are looking at light that has guided your Aboriginal people from time immemorial.
When we drive through Australia's plains, hills and valleys, we are often travelling on routes that have been known for longer than European history.
We give thanks for the richness of the environment in Australia, and acknowledge those who have cared for it throughout time.
We give thanks that often we receive the full benefits of Australian citizenship, without stopping to consider those who are on the margins of society, and not receiving all these benefits.
And yet we know that this is not the full story of what has happened here.
Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge with sorrow the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.
We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised and suppressed.
We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it.

**We acknowledge with sorrow that in our own time
the injustice and abuse has continued.**

**we have been indifferent
when we should have been outraged,
we have been apathetic
when we should have been active,
we have been silent
when we should have spoken out.**

Gracious God, forgive us for our failures, past and present.

**By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts so that we may
boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friends, hear once again the promise of the Christian faith:

The gift of life is to be embraced and shared.

In the love of Christ we have our peace

and we have our healing.

Thanks be to God. Amen

This absolution is by Sean Gilbert

The Lord's Prayer – listen to the Lord's Prayer in the Kurna language

– read by Nelson Varcoe (This was on the Synod Website – Covenanting Page – separate Mp4 file)

Yeowa-rna Marngari-tti
Jehovah-'s request / pray-thing
'The Lord's Prayer'

Ngadluko yerli karralika tikka-ndi;
Our father on high sits
'Our father sits in heaven'

Ninna narri tampi-rna, kuinyunda kumarta-ppi-rna;
You name acknowledge-let sacred apart-cause-let
'Let your name be acknowledged, let it be kept sacred.'

Ninko yerlti-yerlti-nya pintya-rna;
Your advice/command create-let
'Let your rule be established'

Ninko padloni-tti yerta-ngga wappi-rna
Your want-thing earth-on do-let
'Let your want be done on earth'

Karra-ngga nammutannaintya-ndi
High-on resemble-ing
'As it is on high'

Ngadluko mai yunggu-ndo!
Our food give-you!
'Give (us) our food.'

Ngadluko wakkinna kumba-ppi-ndo!
Our sin remove-make-you!
'Take away our sin.'

Ngadlu tangka waia-re-ndi kumarta-nna-ityangga wakkinna wappe-ndi
We liver move-itself-is separate-pl-with wrong do-ing
'Have compassion for those who do wrong.'

Wakkinna-anna warti-tti
Sin-to draw-don't
'Don't draw us into sin.'

Wakkinna-unangko tirra-tirga-ppi-ndo
Sin-from protect make-you!
'Save us from sin.'

Ninna mattanya, taingi, wilta, burti burti tarkari tundarri.
You owner strength power gladness future forever
'You are the boss, the strength, the power, the glory for ever and ever.'

Wappi-rna!
Do-let! (i.e. let it be done)
'Amen.'

Song:

Reading: John 5: 1-9

Reflection on the reading: (See separate file – notes prepared by Peter Russell)

Intercessory Prayers:

Lord, you meet us in unexpected places and people.

Help us to be alert to meet you,

that you may heal our wounds,
and make us ready to serve
in the needs of our neighbours

Where you are hungry and homeless,
help us to be your loving people,
giving food and shelter:

Help us to be alert to meet you.

Where you are imprisoned or oppressed,
help us to be your liberated people,
giving comfort and help

Help us to be alert to meet you

Where you are anxious and despairing,
help us to be your concerned people,
sharing understanding, hope and encouragement:

Help us to be alert to meet you.

Where you are striving to celebrate,
help us to share your joy,
particularly where there seems no reason for happiness:

Help us to be alert to meet you.

Where you are sick and dying,
help us to be your consoling people,
standing at your side offering support:

Help us to be alert to meet you.

Where you are in need of a friend
help us to stand by your side
prepared to stay with you, until your needs are met:

Help us to be alert to meet you.

Ever living and ever loving God,
be with us in our service for others
now and for ever.

Adapted from Bruce Prewer "Australian Prayers" Open Book

Song: Offering Song

This year the *Pilgrimage of Healing Appeal* again focusses on raising funds for a building that the Oodnadatta Faith Community can use for both worship and other purposes. Your support for this 2019 Appeal will be greatly appreciated by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) in South Australia, as have all your previous donations.

Prayer of Dedication:

We confess that what has happened in the past in this nation has not always been done in accordance with the hopes and possibilities that God had for us.

We confess our hardness of heart and lack of compassion. Cleanse us from the racism and prejudice that lurk in the dark corners of our souls.

We pray for healing, forgiveness and restoration for all peoples who call Australia home.

We resolve that by the grace of God we shall strive to make good as much as we are able and to live differently so that our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, the descendants of the First Peoples, may share equally with us in the bounty of this their land.

We pray that your Spirit will show each one of us how we can support the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, its ministers, elders and congregations as they minister to the spiritual, social, mental and emotional wellbeing of the First Peoples of this nation.

Bless and use these gifts and through the power of your Spirit move us to acts of true reconciliation, and change us so that collectively and individually we might make a difference.

Amen.

Prayer adapted from the liturgy provided by the Uniting Church SA at the time of the Prime Minister's apology to the stolen generations

An Affirmation of Faith

**We say God created the universe,
and the world we live in,
and every living thing on this earth.**

**We believe the Creation shows us the power and presence of God, and makes us want
to praise and give thanks to God,
and take good care of the earth God has made.**

**We are full of joy that across the world
different peoples have their own culture and language,
and that in God we are all united together as one.**

**We say God is Spirit, breath of life,
who is always working to bring people to life in God.**

We believe the Spirit has been alive and active in every race and culture.

**We are full of joy that from the beginning the Spirit was alive and active, revealing
God through the law, custom and ceremony of the First Peoples of this ancient land.**

**We believe that we are all brothers and sisters
in the one great family of God,**

**and that God calls us to live in faith, hope and love
for the sake of the Realm of God here on earth.**

**We are full of joy that we can learn, grow and serve together
as a pilgrim people in the name of Christ.**

Affirmation for Reconciliation Sunday approved by UCA National Worship Working Group

Song:**Words of Mission**

Go with us God in all that builds community.

Go with us Christ in all that breaks down barriers.

God with us Spirit in all that reconciles. **Amen!**

From Singing while it is still dark p. 98 (Susan Wickham)

An Australian Blessing

`til next time

May you always stand tall as a gum tree

Be as strong as the rock Uluru

As gentle and still as the morning mist

Hold the warmth of the camp fire in your heart

And may the Creator Spirit always walk with you. **Amen.**

Auntie Betty Pike, Aboriginal Elder

**Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
(UAICC or simply "Congress")**



The Congress Symbol has four main components.

The dove, drawn in the Aboriginal way, is a sign of the Holy Spirit.

Important Aboriginal leaders used the fighting stick to stop people fighting. It is a sign of peace, reconciliation and friendship.

The cross is made of two message sticks. The horizontal stick is a message stick used to pass messages from one clan to another. Here it symbolises the word or "message" of God that brings life.

The hands indicate that all people belong in the body of Christ. They are a sign that the Congress does not want separation; nor does it want to practise racial discrimination.

The logo uses the Aboriginal colours of red, black and yellow. The red filling the top half circle is symbolic of Christ's blood covering all. The black lower half circle stands for the U in Uniting.