

Worship Resources for Reconciliation Week 27th May – 3rd June 2019

Cover Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Ministry,

It was agreed in November 2006 that the SA Presbytery establish Reconciliation Sunday in Reconciliation week (27 May – 3 June) annually, to be celebrated across the church, and request church councils to include this in their worship calendars.

This year Reconciliation Week is preceded by Sorry Day on Sunday May 26th. Reconciliation Sunday is on Sunday June 2nd. Some congregations may choose to celebrate reconciliation week on May 26th, or indeed on another day, such as in NAIDOC Week in July.

This is the thirteenth year that the SA Synod have prepared worship resources for use on Reconciliation Sunday. You may like to use some of the resources produced in previous years. Please refer to the full set of resources for this year and those for previous years which may be downloaded from the Mission Resourcing SA website at:

<http://sa.uca.org.au/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday>

This year we have also used some of the resources prepared for services around January 26th. These are The Day of Mourning services prepared by the Assembly Resourcing Unit, and Change the Heart services prepared by Common Grace.

We also include video clips from Common Grace, featuring Brooke Prentis, which may be useful for smaller lay led congregations. There is a 2017 talk entitled “Rethinking Reconciliation” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vA6WZQi3BfU> and a little talk on the Parable of the Good Samaritan https://www.commongrace.org.au/parables_the_good_samaritan

There are other websites where you may find additional material useful for worship. These include Australians Together <https://www.australianstogether.org.au/nrw/> and TEAR Australia <https://www.tear.org.au/resources/tear-reconciliation-action-kit> which features two of our SA Congress leaders

This year we have also made separate folders for song suggestions and extra resources for reading and study groups.

As in other years the **UAICC greatly appreciates the support offered to the Congress through the Pilgrimage of Healing appeal, which this year again supports the Oodnadatta Building Appeal**. Please see the story by Gaynor Strapp entitled **Oodnadatta Anzac Pilgrimage**, which is the story of the April 2019 trip to Oodnadatta with our Moderator.

Grace and Peace,

Ian Dempster, Congress Resource Officer

On behalf of the Synod Covenanting Committee Organizing team

Worship Resources

Call to Prayer

Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,

From ocean to ocean,

From mountain to desert,

From river to lake,

From the places where only sounds of your creation can be heard,

To the the cities where the hum of steel, concrete and bitumen makes it hard to hear.

Your people, who are called by your name, have gathered across these lands now called Australia.

We come together in community, humbly seeking your face.

We seek you in prayers, songs and words.

May you open our ears, eyes and minds,

May you change our hearts.

May we hear your call.

May you heal our land.

Prayer written by Brooke Prentis

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Today, as we gather to worship,

We acknowledge the Peoples

The first inhabitants of this place

From time beyond remembering

We acknowledge that through this land,

God nurtured and sustained

The First peoples of this country

The Aboriginal and Islander peoples

We honour them for their custodianship

Of the land on which we gather today.

We acknowledge that the First Peoples
Had already encountered the Creator God
Before the arrival of the colonisers:

The Spirit was already in the land,

Revealing God to the people

Through law, custom and ceremony.

We acknowledge that the same love and grace
that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ
sustained the First Peoples
and gave them particular insights into God's ways:

and so we rejoice

in the reconciling purposes of God

found in the good news about Jesus Christ.

OR

We acknowledge theClan / Nation

The sovereign First Peoples of this place.

We honour their elders past and present

Together with all descendants of this Nation,

For their care of these lands and waters since creation.

Please Note: On the Adelaide Plains the First People are the Kurna. If you do not know who are the First Peoples of your place it is good to find out.

Hymn / Song

Greeting

Today (Sunday June 2nd) is Reconciliation Sunday - as part of Reconciliation week (between May 27th – June 1st).

As we celebrate Reconciliation Sunday, we think about the relationships of the First Peoples of this nation with the Second Peoples, and how God calls us all to live in harmony and as peacemakers and reconcilers. We also think of the message of the gospel that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to God, so that we can be reconciled with each other. This message comes through clearly in our Scripture readings today.

Prayers of Lament and Confession

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge with lament the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.

We acknowledge and lament the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised and suppressed.

We acknowledge and lament the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it.

We acknowledge and lament 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.

Liberating Jesus, hear our lament and by your Spirit bring healing, hope and transformation to the lives of our First Nations sisters and brothers and their communities we pray

Gracious God, hear our acknowledgements –

We have not loved you with our whole heart,

Nor have we loved First Peoples and other neighbours as ourselves.

God of mercy,
forgive us for our failures, past and present and
give us the grace today to make a fresh start,

**By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts
so that we love as you have loved us,
That we may boldly speak your truth
and courageously do your will.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

This is the best of all:

When we are empty, God fills us:

When we are disheartened, God is compassionate;

When we are wounded, God brings healing;

When we confess our sin, God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,

Our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

You refill the cup of life, O God.

In Christ , we find refuge, strength and hope.

Amen.

Hymn / Song

Scripture Readings:

Acts 16: 16 - 34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12 – 14, 16 – 17, 20 - 21

John 17: 20 - 26

Sermon / Reflection

Prayer after Sermon

Before you our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

We remember that we stand on holy ground

We acknowledge the stories of this land

We acknowledge the peoples of this land

We acknowledge the lore of this land

We acknowledge the languages of this land

We acknowledge that this land and her peoples are in need of healing

Give us compassion

To hear and to feel the pain of lives torn apart

To hear and feel the pain of land that is damaged

And mistreated – sold to the highest bidder

Give us conviction

To name where we benefit from the

Dispossession of First peoples

To see where injustice has taken hold

And to not look away

Give us the courage

To listen, to see, to feel, to name

The pain,

The loss,

The theft and

The resistance.

May we be inspired by truth – tellers,

Justice seekers and peace makers in every age.

Turn our inaction into action.

We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

By Rev. Katherine Rainger

Hymn / Song

Offering

Please consider using the offering or a special retiring offering today (or an appeal run over several weeks) to support the work of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in South Australia. This year the Pilgrimage of Healing (please see the poster which is available to be down loaded) again focusses on the building appeal for the Congress Community at Oodnadatta. Your support of this appeal is greatly appreciated by the Congress not only in 2018, but also in recent years.

Notices

Prayers of the People

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history
So that we may build a better future for our nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Teach us to care for our land and waters.
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.

**Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
To improve the quality of life
For all peoples in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.
Help all young people to find true dignity
And self-esteem by your Spirit.**

May your power and love
Be the foundations on which we:
Walk together as First and Second peoples; and
Build our families, our communities and our nation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer was prepared by the Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous
Theology Working Group, and amended by The UCA
Resourcing Unit in 2018.

Hymn / Song

Word of Mission

People of God
go from here to live out the covenant into which we,
the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered
with one another.
Confront and challenge injustice wherever you see it.
Act justly yourselves and insist that others do the same.
Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them.
Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share in Jesus our Lord.
Commit to worship, witness and serve as one people under God,
Until God's promised reconciliation of all creation is complete.

**Bless us therefore, as we depart this place: give us a generous spirit, a
kind heart, and the grace to walk alongside our Aboriginal brothers
and sisters. Amen.**

Benediction

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,

Remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.

May the Gum Tree, from it's roots to it's branches,

Remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.

May the eagle who soars in the sky,

Remind us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,

Remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,

Remind us of community.

Now with grace, mercy and peace, go in truth, justice, love and hope.

By Brooke Prentis

The Peace of God be with you.

And also with you.