



‘Worship at home’



Frontier Services
Standing with people in the bush

Frontier Services acknowledges the sovereign First Peoples on whose lands and waters we live, meet and work. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to all descendants of these Nations who have cared for this place since creation.

Opening (from Psalm 96)

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad!

Let the sea thunder, and all it holds!

Let the countryside exalt and all that is in it;

Let all the trees of the forest cry out for joy.

Amen!



Frontier Services is an Australian charity organisation founded in 1912 through the work of Reverend John Flynn. Their primary purpose is to support people in rural and remote Australia through two core programs: Bush Chaplaincy and Outback Links. As an agency of the Uniting Church they work in partnership with the Uniting Church across Australia, enabling them to provide chaplaincy, advocate for communities, and mobilise volunteers and resources where they are needed most. These include First Nations communities, isolated properties and farms, mining communities, and other remotely located areas. **Frontier Services are the friendly face who show up and offers support when no one else does.**

Prayer of Confession

Lord, when we see the beauty and intricacy of your creation
we acknowledge humanity’s misuse and abuse.

We confess Lord that we have been careless
and sometimes willful in our actions.

Forgive us Lord for our carelessness and disregard.

In this world, filled with creatures and ecosystems that are
delicate and vulnerable,

**Forgive us Lord for the times we have plundered
and exploited.**

In this world where water can seem so abundant
and yet so precious to the survival of all life,
Forgive us Lord for our wasting and our polluting.

In this world where there is food and resources enough
for all to live with dignity,

Forgive us Lord for our selfishness and greed.

In all we do, may we be people of compassion,
caring for your creation, for each other
and for all people across this country and across your world.

We bring these prayers to you in Jesus' name. Amen

Leviticus 25: 3-5

Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your

field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.

- NRSV

Reflection

This reflection is adapted from the Frontier Services Order of Service 2025 and comes from Rev Dona Spencer who recently concluded her time as a Bush Chaplain serving in the Bottle Tree Remote Area, Queensland.



During my time as a Bush Chaplain, I have been deeply touched by the respect and understanding that the graziers and farmers have for the land. One grazier spoke of their relationship being not one of ownership but of guardianship. She was “maintaining the property in order to hand it over to her sons as future owners”.

Romans 8: 22-23

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labour, and not only the creation, but we

ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

- NRSV

Cycles of rest, planting, growth and harvesting are evident throughout the farming communities of Australia. So too are cycles of drought and flood, bushfires and regrowth. This connectedness with people and the land is paramount to success and wholeness in the outback. There is a placard heading west on the Warrego highway which commands our attention... “it’s the people that matter”. This is so true for those living in the outback. The small towns, whilst shrinking, are rich in community life where people come together to support when times are tough, and to grieve their losses, and to celebrate their successes.

Luke 8: 22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are

perishing!” And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. Then he said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were terrified and amazed and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?” - NRSV

This reading describes the disciples huddled in a boat in a storm. They cried out, together. Afterwards, they experienced the calm, together. Frontier Services has Bush Chaplains on the ground in remote areas so that they can ‘stand with people in the bush’ during the storms of life and celebrate with them when the storms die down. We are grateful that through all the seasons of life, God is with us. We share with others that they are not alone... God cares, and there are people out there who do also. The Outback Links program is a practical expression of this love and care. As volunteers roll up their sleeves, have a yarn, and share meals, relationships are formed, spirits are lifted and hearts are encouraged. 3



Prayers for others

Lord God, we pray for our world, and in particular the people who live across rural and remote parts of our country. We pray for First Nations people across this land. May we all walk together, creating meaningful connections and a brighter road ahead.



Lord hear us, Lord, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for farmers and those living and working in rural and remote Australia; people working hard to provide the food and resources we need to sustain our lives.

Grant them comfort and rest through the challenges and hardships that they face.

We pray particularly for people impacted by and recovering from the effects of severe weather events and natural disasters.

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for children and families living in the bush, may they be sustained through the work of Frontier Services and other agencies so that they might feel a sense of connection and hope for their future.

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for Frontier Services Bush Chaplains, that they might bring care and compassion to the most vulnerable and isolated people across this vast land.

We pray for Outback Links volunteers, that they might bring much needed friendship and practical support to our brothers and sisters in the bush.

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for people and concerns in our own community

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayers.**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us to follow you, willing to help people in need, wherever they are, in our community and beyond. **Amen!**

Closing

Like the sun rises on coastland, mountain areas or inland,
May the warmth of your love fire up our hearts
That we may be and bear your blessing to all.

~ Frontier Services Order of Service 2025

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