



Day of Mourning – 24th January

The meaning behind the cover artwork is interwoven storytelling. It makes a statement of:

“no matter what the history, this will always be aboriginal land, our imprint will never be invisible and we will always survive and thrive. Our stories and family lines entwine across seas, lands and skies, forever a united front.”

COVID arrangements – while wearing masks indoors is no longer mandated we ask that you continue to wear them, unless you have a legal reason to not wear one.

Singing – we will wear masks and remain seated while singing.

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH

Epiphany 3

DAY OF MOURNING 2021

The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church in 2018, arising from a request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

In the spirit of our Walking Together as First and Second Peoples, and as an expression of the Uniting Church’s commitment to justice and truth-telling, we have declared the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning.

The Day of Mourning invites all Uniting Church in Australia congregations to hold worship services that reflect on the effects of invasion and colonisation on Australia’s First Peoples and our identity as a nation.

This worship service is an annual observance for us as the Uniting Church. Remembering our history is an important part of our Covenant relationship and our journey toward justice, healing and a new relationship as First and Second Peoples. The service reminds us of the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, and laments that as a Church and as Second Peoples we were and remain complicit.

We acknowledged this in our Church when we apologised to the Stolen Generations in 1997.

We acknowledged this by revising the Preamble to our Constitution, which was approved by the 9th Assembly in 2009.

We acknowledged this in affirming First Peoples as the sovereign peoples of this land in 2018. Our declaration of a Day of Mourning allows us to stand together in remembering the truth of our history, and honouring the culture of Australia's First Peoples, their families and the next generations.

Congregational responses are printed in bold type

WELCOME

Friends, as we prepare to celebrate on the 26th of January all that makes Australia a wonderful country in which to live, today we are remembering the tragic history of our nation and the violent dispossession of her First Peoples. This, also, is part of our story.

This is a Day of Mourning. Today we mark in lament the truth of our shared history and we lift up to God our prayers for First Peoples and our nation.

We say sorry and we pray for forgiveness, healing and hope. But today is also a day of worship. So, we come together and give thanks to God for the abundant grace and liberating hope which we know through Jesus Christ, which is for all people.

The God of all justice,
The God of all peace,
be with you all.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our land is alive with the glory of God;
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing
and mountains breathe their stillness.
**All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even stones rap out their praise.**

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;
may our hearts join the beat of her joy,
for our triune God is with us:
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.

Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.
The Spirit moves within and between us.
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

HYMN: TIS 672

Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our wide brown land:
in your will her peace and power.

Michael Rayner Thwaites 1915-
and Honor Mary Thwaites 1914-93 *alt*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

Today, as we gather to worship,
we acknowledge the Bun Wurrung 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.**

Drawn from the Preamble to the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia.

INVOCATION & LAMENT

Abba, Father,
Bäpa God,
source of all life,
answer our call,
as a mother responds
to the cry of a child in the night.

Jesus Christ,
brother and friend,
Liberator,
stand beside us
as bearer of our humanity,
and sharer of God's grace.

Creator Spirit,
giver of new life,
purposeful guest,
prod us to praise,
calling us to be a people
of hope and faith in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

Merciful God,
we, lament the injustice and abuse
of the First Peoples of this land.

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

We lament:
**the ways in which the church
was both complicit in this process and actively involved in it.**

We lament:
**that in our own time
injustice and abuse continues.
We have been indifferent.**

Gracious God, hear our acknowledgements —
Hear our lament.
**We have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor have we loved First Peoples and other neighbours as ourselves.**

TIS 756

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy**

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

By your Spirit transform our minds, our heart, our wills,
so that we may love as you have loved us,
**that we may boldly speak your truth
and courageously do your will.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet;
A light to our path

Hebrew Scriptures: 2 Samuel 12. 1-14

Psalm 85

Lord, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

Selah

You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation towards us.
Will you be angry with us for ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1. 14-20

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE STORY OF CONISTON

TERROR AUSTRALIA

You can't think about the future still running from the past
Tall tales lie in history and flames burn through the memories
There's a country that is aching for a way to call its own
You can feel the mansions shaking as the first real seed is sown
Now you can't talk about the future if you're running from the past
It's a terror in Australia, jails and guns and failure.

Can you see the ships a coming, stately through the heads
And arched out over the white sails is the merchant's flag of red
Now Captain Cook spawns Captain Coke and beer flows over rum
In a twinkling of an eye my friend they spent your dollars very well

And those traditions they can't sell sit silent in the sun
Where ignorance and wealth combine to crush the fruit upon the vine
It's a terror in Australia.

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It's a terror in Australia
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It's a terror in Australia

Performed by Alice Skye
Songwriters: Peter Garrett / Wayne Stevens

SERMON

HYMN: TIS 618

What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire
or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear!
should you not justice show?
Will God your pleading hear,
while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly; ...

Leaders in wealth and trade,
for whom the worker toils,
think not to win God's aid
if greed your commerce soils.
Do justly; ...

Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands:
to merchant, worker, king,
he brings God's high demands.
Do justly; ...

How shall our life fulfil
God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.
*Then justly,
in mercy,
we'll humbly walk with God.*

Albert Frederick Bayly, 1901-84 alt.
based on Micah 6:6-8

OFFERING -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: TIS 383

Joyful the morning when Jesus Christ is risen!
Golden light is dawning, the dayspring radiant shines,
all the hosts of heaven raise on high their psalms divine.
*O Let us too be happy, rejoice and cry out 'Hallelujah!'
He is risen and opens heav'n for all those who believe.*

Now earth awaking is raising shouts of praise,
'Jesus now is risen!' All creatures now rejoice –
they are in the care again of their triumphant Lord.
refrain

All peoples living in lands washed by the seas,
nations under all four directions of the wind,
can be joyful in the resurrection of the Lord.
refrain

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

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, O God, as we depart in peace:
give us a generous spirit, kind hearts,
and the grace to walk alongside our First Peoples,
as brothers and sisters in Christ. **Amen.**

WORD OF MISSION

Go in the power of God's good Spirit:
with the gentle fire of God's zeal,
with the breath of life,
ready to work for justice and peace.
We go in Christ's name. Amen.

POSTLUDE

You can find the full version of the Assembly's Day of Mourning service, which includes other resources and links to other material on the congregation's website. You can also find a copy of today's sermon and other congregational information on the website.

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NEWS AND NOTICES

ASRC – THANK YOU

Karen and the Food bank team have sent an email with thanks for the generosity of donations (both monetary via vouchers and through the donation of groceries).

Here's a section from the ASRC email:

“ Thank you for your generous donation to the ASRC Foodbank. Our Foodbank operates as a free grocery store for people seeking asylum who live in our community. The ASRC Foodbank's unique model enables people to choose their own items, providing access with dignity to food they can't afford to buy. With your support, we provide food to approximately 700 people each week, most of whom rely on us as their sole source of food. Many of these people are denied the right to work and earn an income, while others receive insufficient income to cover their basic needs. Sadly, this is increasingly the case, and the call on our service is growing.

Giving food is the most immediate and tangible way to support people seeking asylum, and your generosity inspires us. The majority of all groceries and material aid is donated by generous supporters just like you. We can't operate our programs without your compassionate contribution.

Thank you once again for your support and generosity. It truly is invaluable.”

Karen and the Foodbank team.

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH COUNCILLORS AND FORMATION GROUP MEMBERS

In our worship on Sunday 7th February, we will commission members of these two groups. We are especially delighted to welcome Brian Moore as a new member of the Church Council. Chris Rowntree has withdrawn from the Formation Group as a result of her taking up a new paid ministry position elsewhere in the church. (More news of this later).

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS

The following positions were confirmed at this week's Church Council meeting for 2021.

2021 OFFICE BEARER POSITIONS

- Church Council Chair, Mardie Townsend
- Church Council Secretary, Brian Moore
- Church Treasurer, Dennis Taylor

We acknowledge Heather Baxter and Joan Cleghorn who are finishing their Office Bearer roles held with Ormond Uniting Church, and thank each for their tireless work in these roles which have been held over several years.

ROSTER for Sunday 31st January 2020

Note: Morning Tea not currently being held after Service until further notice

READING	Lisa Saffin	
PRAYERS	Marg Davis	
SUNDAY OK	Dianne Richter	Frank Ortolan
DOOR DUTY	Frank Ortolan	Gary Richter
SOUND	Nev Parker	
COUNTING	Dot Rose	Jan Rose
RESOURCES DELIVERY (Fri 29 Jan)	Brenda Grootendorst	