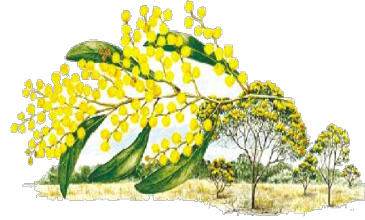




AUSTRALIA DAY: 26TH JANUARY

MORNING PRAYER



Leader:

As the sun rises on Australia Day, may we be one in prayer

CALL TO WORSHIP

L. We are called

All: to relieve suffering

L. We are called

All: to relieve suffering and to bring hope

L. We lament

All: the wrongful claiming of this land

L. We lament

All: the denial of the birthright of the original owners of this land

L. We celebrate

All: their presence among us

POEM

Reader: SURVIVAL

Elders, hear my voice

Let my words be mingled with your own

For the wisdom of the Dreaming lives in you.

Seasons come and go

The winds of time have worn the mountains low

While we journey on.

We have become masters of survival,

The type that will inhabit the dying earth.

Survival is a most complex thing.

It is the fruit of courtesy.

If we kill to kill, then we will perish.

If we prowl with blood-lust through the valley

And turn our thirsting spearheads to slaughter

Then all the spirit world will cry hostility

And mark us down for death.

But if our tracks are gentle through the valley

With every cautious step conceived in courtesy

Then we will truly live in the strength of the deep Dreaming

As deathless as the tribes of companion stars

And we will surely survive

Until the last moon dips into the final sea.



PSALM Psalm 73(74)

Antiphon: Remember your people, Lord, whom you chose long ago

Why, O God, have you cast us off forever?
Why blaze with anger at the sheep of your pasture?
Remember the people you chose long ago,
The tribe you redeemed to be your own possession,
The mountain of Sion where you made your dwelling.

Turn your steps to those places that are utterly ruined!
The enemy has laid waste the whole of the sanctuary
Your foes have made uproar of your house of prayer:
They have set up their emblems, their foreign emblems
High above the entrance to the sanctuary.

Their axes have battered the wood of its doors
They have struck together with hatchet and pickaxe.
O God, they have set your sanctuary on fire:
They have raised and profaned the place where you dwell.

They have said in their hearts: "Let us utterly crush them:
Let us burn every shrine of God in the land".
There is no sign from God, nor have we a prophet,
We have no-one to tell us how long it will last.

How long, O God, is the enemy to scoff?
Is the foe to insult your Name forever?
Why, O Lord, do you hold back your hand?
Why do you keep your right hand hidden?

Yet God is our king from time past,
The giver of help through all the land

Glory to you, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen.

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WORD OF GOD

Matthew 27: 33-34



When they reached the place called the Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said: 'Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.'

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Silent reflection

Leader: Reflection from the Acts of Chapter 2001:
*'Wherever we are, whoever we are, whatever we do,
We are called to relieve suffering and bring hope'*

'We recommit ourselves to walk with people in reconciliation.'

*A Period of Silent Reflection:
During this time, a Sprinkling Rite may be carried out*

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon: O God, save us from the hands of all who hate us
BENEDICTUS Bernadette Farrell

Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,
Who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,
Who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,
Of David's line, a son of royal birth.

The prophets tell a story just begun
Of vanquished foe and glorious victory won,
Of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:
All shall be free to dwell upon the land,
Free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,
Holy and righteous in the sight of God.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called
The promised one, the prophet of our God,
For you will go before the Lord to clear the way,
And shepherd all into the light of day.

The tender love God promised from our birth
Is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,
To shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,
To guide our feet into the path of peace.

All glory be to God, Creator blest,
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,
All glory be both now and evermore.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: As we gather on Australia Day, we come before a God who forgives, as we pray:

Response: O God, hear us; hear our prayer (said or sung)

1. For peace and reconciliation among all the nations of the world.
2. For true justice for the rights of all peoples, especially the indigenous peoples of our nation.
3. For a sense of deep listening and reverence for the beautiful land that has been given to us.
4. For a deepening of appreciation for all cultures, and especially for the different tribes of our indigenous people.
5. For a greater sense of community, and a bonding of all the tribes of the Indigenous peoples of this land.
6. For recognition of land rights of indigenous peoples by all political parties.
7. For an all-embracing attitude to the oppressed peoples who come to Australia from war-torn and impoverished nations
8. For the needs of this time.....(Sharing)

OUR FATHER

Let us pray now as Jesus taught us....
(said or sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: O God, you gave us the dreaming. May we grow in appreciation and reverence for your gift of this great land under the Southern Cross. May we value our fauna and flora, and above all, learn to value each other. May we experience forgiveness from each other, and reach out in friendship and peace. May we learn to forgive ourselves for the prejudices of the past, and work towards a nation of welcome for all.

We ask this in Jesus' Name.

All: Amen

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

L. May you always stand tall as a tree

All: Amen

L. Be as strong as the rock Uluru, as gentle and still as the morning mist

All: Amen

L. Hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart

All: Amen

L. And may the Creator spirit always walk with you

All: Amen



EVENING PRAYER PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

(One large lit candle is carried through the Assembly in silence, and solemnly placed in the Sacred Space)

Leader: The light of Christ has moved among us this day. As the sun sets, we are aware of this gift of light

HYMN:

Christ be Our Light: Bernadette Farrell
(or a similar hymn proclaiming the light)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our Light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our Light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed

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Or: (Sung to tune of Advance Australia Fair)

With Christ our head and cornerstone, we'll build our nation's might
Whose way and truth and light alone, can guide our path aright
Our lives, a sacrifice of love reflect our Master's care,
With faces turned to heaven above, Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair.

(Text: Author unknown)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Leader: For what shall we thank God this night?

(reflection and sharing)

PSALM

Antiphon: God's light shines for all the world through Jesus Christ, God's Son

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
You have heard the words of my mouth
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
Which excel all we ever knew of you
On the day I called, you answered;
You increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
How great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
And the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
You give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,
Your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal
Discard not the work of your hands

Glory to you, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen.

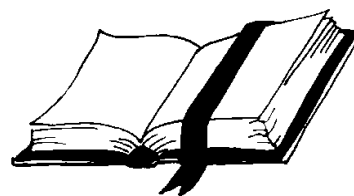


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WORD OF GOD

Jn. 13, 34-35

I give you a new commandment;
Love one another;
Just as I have loved you,
You must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
Everyone will know that you are my disciples.



Leader

What images and feelings do the Australian symbols stir in me? (eg the flag, the indigenous people's flag, the Southern Cross)

Have I thought of these in terms of the Cross and Resurrection?

How do the symbols challenge us to love one another in a new way?



Torres Strait flag



Period of Silence and sharing

GOSPEL CANTICLE *Mary's Song of Praise*

***Antiphon: Holy is God, holy and mighty, Holy immortal One,
Have mercy on us!***

(There are many simple sung versions available)

MAGNIFICAT Bernadette Farrell

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit sings to God, my saving God,
Who on this day above all others favoured me
And raised me up, a light for all to see.

Through me great deeds will God make manifest,
And all the earth will come to call me blest.
Unbounded love and mercy sure I will proclaim
For all who know and praise God's holy name.

God's mighty arm, protector of the just,
Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.
But mighty kings will swiftly fall from thrones corrupt.
The strong brought low, the lowly lifted up.

Soon will the poor and hungry of the earth
Be richly blest, be given greater worth.
And Israel, as once foretold to Abraham,
Will live in peace throughout the promised land.

All glory be to God, Creator blest,



To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,
All glory be both now and evermore.

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INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let gather our prayers together on this day of darkness and light
All: Give us light, O God

1. We pray that the darkness of prejudice may be turned into light
2. We pray that our tears will be turned into joy
3. We pray that all peoples will find forgiveness and reconciliation
4. We pray that the prayer of Jesus to love one another will be carried out in our day to day living.
5. We pray that those fleeing persecution will find a home in our land Australia
6. (individual petitions)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: O God, you gave us the dreaming. May we grow in appreciation and reverence for your gift of this great land under the Southern Cross. May we value our fauna and flora, and above all, learn to value each other. May we experience forgiveness from each other, and reach out in friendship and peace. May we learn to forgive ourselves for the prejudices of the past, and work towards a nation of welcome for all peoples. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

All: Amen



BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

- L.** May you always stand tall as a tree
All: Amen
- L.** Be as strong as the rock Uluru, as gentle and still as the morning mist
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- L.** Hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart
All: Amen
- L.** And may the Creator spirit always walk with you
All: Amen

(from "An Australian Blessing" E. Pike. 1997)
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