



Westmead  
Uniting church



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**

**NAIDOC WEEK**  
8-15 NOV 2020

NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is a time to learn about their history, traditions and contemporary issues. NAIDOC Week is a time to show respect and support for the First Nations people of Australia. For more information, visit [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

[naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au) #NAIDOC2020 #AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe

Facebook Twitter Instagram

**9:45am Zoom Worship Service**  
<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>  
Meeting ID: 395 833 6709  
Or Dial in by phone +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to Westmead Uniting Church as we gather together in this virtual reality to celebrate NAIDOC WEEK.

## THEME

The theme for this year is, *Always Was, Always Will be.*

### Front page graphic

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. It is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

## MEDITATIVE SOUNDS AND VISIONS OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

David Hudson- *Didgeridoo - Yigi Yigi*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf0RrQ62jw8>



## OPENING SENTENCES

We gather today, Holy God, ancient and near,  
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...

*to continue to walk together  
in lives and acts of Reconcillitaion. Amen*

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**HYMN** *One in love we meet together* (tune: Hyfrydol)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw6QCows\\_Bc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw6QCows_Bc)

1. One in love, we meet together,  
one in time, and never apart.  
We in flesh as brother, sister,  
makes us one in mind and heart.  
All incarnate, we would offer,  
all we most sincerely prize,  
Learning though traditions differ  
how they join to make us wise.
2. One in outlook, always searching,  
not to bind in common creed,  
As a people, be more ready  
to respond to other's need.  
Here we are so finely fashioned,  
understanding, here to serve,  
Never narrow in compassion,  
empathy without reserve.
3. As in Christ, may we discover  
that to give is to receive,  
That in God the good is present,  
ever, always we perceive.  
Not by chance the world's creation,  
not by chance was life begun,  
God is love and our vocation  
is to love 'til love has won.

*(Adapted by Betty Van Till/3C/CCC)*

## PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

God of our ancient people,  
Glover of all tribes,  
show those of us  
who are more recent arrivals  
in this great south land  
how best we can allow  
Indigenous Australians  
to recover their dignity  
and to make their rich contribution  
to the wellbeing of our growing nation.  
***Thank you for those in government  
and in the church community  
who are really listening  
and responding with true wisdom  
to their needs and cries.***

Thank you for the land rights  
that have been recognised,  
for progress among tribal groups,  
for emerging Indigenous poets, priests,  
ministers and managers.  
***We pray with anguished souls  
for the descendants of tribes  
disinherited long ago,  
for those broken spirits  
who gather without aim or hope  
in parks and lanes of cities and towns.***

God of us all, guide us,  
for we feel incapable of discovering  
how we can best support them -  
except that perhaps to admit to them  
that we are burdened to belong  
to the race  
that made life difficult for them.  
***Merciful God, hear our cry.  
Many of us long to undo  
the many wrongs,  
as far as is possible,  
and long to know  
how we can journey  
with our Indigenous sisters & brothers.  
But how do we start, o God?  
Where do we start?  
Merciful God, hear our cry!***  
*Bruce Prewer - Australian Prayers (adapted)*

## ASSURANCE

The voice of the Christ  
calls to us in grace in our fragility,  
to enter the gates of forgiveness.  
Follow the call of love  
and lay down the past in faith.  
We are forgiven, flow into justice.  
***Thanks be to God. Amen!***

**MUSIC** Sting, *Fragile* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPjj8edvjgM>

If blood will flow when flesh and steel are one  
Drying in the colour of the evening sun  
Tomorrow's rain will wash the stains away  
But something in our minds will always stay  
Perhaps this final act was meant  
To clinch a lifetime's argument  
That nothing comes from violence  
and nothing ever could  
For all those born beneath an angry star  
Lest we forget how fragile we are

On and on the rain will fall  
Like tears from a star like tears from a star  
On and on the rain will say  
How fragile we are how fragile we are



On and on the rain will fall  
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How fragile we are how fragile we are  
How fragile we are how fragile we are

**4**<sup>6</sup> They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

**O** God our nurturer,  
may your word live in us.  
*And colour our living.*  
*Amen!*

#### **LODGED**

The rain to the wind said,  
‘You push and I’ll pelt.’  
They so smote the garden bed  
That the flowers actually knelt,  
And lay lodged -  
    though not dead.  
I know how the flowers felt.  
**ROBERT FROST**



#### **REFLECTION**

*“Lodged Out of place”*

**HYMN** Great Artist [Tune: TiS 107, Kremser]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-y8xnzD61TA>

**G**reat Artist, each dawn  
You paint gold and vermilion;  
You shape Uluru, mountain gorge,  
beaches, plains;  
You plant every hill  
with grevillea and wattle.  
Teach us to trace your footprints  
in this dry brown land.

Through Noah, you gave peoples  
bow for a covenant;  
From Ur, you called Abram;

you worked with Israel -  
In history, in exile,  
they learned your grace and justice.  
Help us perceive your presence  
in our history too.

Here too in Australia  
the ancient ones met you;  
You taught them your law -  
to protect mother Earth,  
To care for each other,  
enjoy in peace earth’s goodness.



**OFFERING** An offering of our lives  
and the gifts of creation.

### PRAYER FOR OTHERS

**H**oly Spirit you make all things new;  
Renew us in will and deed  
to work together with you.

Loving Creator, we pray for our wide island continent:  
its forests, deserts, rivers, billabongs and mountains,  
its coastlands, lakes islands and seas,  
its unique marsupials and birds, its reptiles, fish, coral reefs,  
dugongs, turtles and great whales.

Loving Parent, whose likeness we share, bless our people.  
Bless Indigenous Australians and the most recent migrants.  
Bless the descendents of European convicts and settlers,  
the Asians, Pacific Islanders and new refugees arriving from far lands.

Loving Jesus, give wisdom and grace to our nation.  
We pray for the prime minister, premiers, ministers,  
parliaments, councils and courts.  
For service organisations and welfare groups.  
We pray for those who represent us overseas: ambassadors, exchange students,  
athletes, tourists, aid workers, peacekeeping forces and missionaries.

Loving Spirit,  
continue your ministry through the churches of this wide and diverse land.  
Bless the old denominations and the new, the rigid and relaxed,  
the high church and charismatic, the large and the small.  
Bless the Uniting Church, its synods, presbyteries, networks,  
congregations and assembly.  
Bless the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress,  
its congregations and communities of faith.  
Strengthen us all, that we may be reconciled with each other  
and united in your service  
of evangelism, social justice, pastoral care, education, worship, witness and fellowship.

In Jesus, the Christ,  
you came sharing our stories;  
A Jew, one of us, gentle stranger to all;  
He taught us respect every person,  
pale or darker.  
Heal by his wounds the scars  
our words and deeds have wrought.

Great God of the people  
of this land and Hebrew,  
The Parent of Jesus -  
we know you are one.  
Now help us see you  
in our neighbour and our landscape.  
With this soil and its people,  
make us one, we pray.

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*Spirit of God  
Gift of Pentecost  
Remake us in the likeness of Christ  
That we may live in your glory,  
From here to eternity.  
Amen.*

© Bruce D Prewer, *Australian Prayers, revised and expanded, Openbook, 2002*

### WORDS OF MISSION

In the power of your Holy Spirit  
send us out to love and serve in the way of Jesus.  
And in your mercy and compassion  
walk with us as we continue our journey of healing  
to create a future that is just and equitable  
especially for the First Peoples.  
*You are our hope, O God.  
Amen.*

### AUSTRALIAN BLESSING

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*

**POSTLUDE** *Come as you are* (693 TiS, v1)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mkPL9LO6w>

Come as you are: that's how I want you.  
Come as you are: feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven,  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

**Liturgy**  
**Parramatta Mission Interim Lead Minister,**  
**Rev Vladimir Korotkov**