

Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church

Parramatta City
Uniting Church

P e n t e c o s t 6 A

n a i d o c
week

come & display God's
mercy justice & compassion
in acts of liberation



9 j u l y 2023

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together to celebrate NAIDOC WEEK on this Sunday.

LIGHTING THE RECONCILIATION CANDLE

Today we light this candle of Reconciliation, which announces that the crucified risen Christ breathes the Spirit into our communities and love into reconciliation, inspiring transformed relationships, cultural respect and structural changes.

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In NAIDOC Week we acknowledge the Burramattagal 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.

NAIDOC WEEK

In National NAIDOC Week we celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

NAIDOC THEME OF 2023

For our elders

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/awards/current-theme>

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gurrimul & Paul Kelly *Amazing Grace*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVORrx9jliE&list=RDMM&index=6>

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I am found,

Was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

When we look at the stars,
we are looking at light that has guided your Aboriginal people
from time immemorial.

When we drive through Australia's plains, hills and valleys,
we are often travelling on routes
that have been known for longer than European history.

We give thanks for the richness of the environment in Australia, and
acknowledge those who have cared for it throughout time.

We give thanks that often we receive the full benefits of Australian
citizenship, without stopping to consider those who are on the
margins of society, and not receiving all these benefits. And yet we
know that this is not the full story of what has happened here.

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

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

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

We acknowledge with sorrow 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.

***Gracious God, forgive us for our failures, past and present.
By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts and structures
so that we may boldly speak your truth
and courageously do your will.***

Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE

Friends, hear once again the promise of the Christian faith:
The gift of life is to be embraced and shared.
In the love of Christ we have our peace
and we have our healing.

Thanks be to God. Amen

*(This absolution is by Sean Gilbert, Uniting Aboriginal and
Islander Christian Congress)*

HYMN *Praise with joy the world's Creator (TiS 179)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2T4zptmvs4>

1. Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

3. Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.

4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.

Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.
(Tune: Praise my soul the king of heaven. J Goss c. 1986 Wild
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SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 11:25-30** (Inclusive Text)

Jesus exclaimed,
'I bless you, O God, Ruler of heaven and earth,
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and
revealing them to mere children.
'It is true, Abba, because you have graciously willed it so.
'You have given everything over to me. No one knows me but you,
Abba, and no one knows you, Abba, except me and those to whom I
choose to reveal you.'
'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give
you rest. 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
'Yes, my yoke is easy, and my burden light.'

RESPONSE

In these words God speaks to us!
***May they come alive in our living
Amen!***

REFLECTION

SONG *I heard the words of Jesus say*
Celtic Song Sung for us!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kyfROS4q8&t=149s>

We sit and listen to the you tube, and we can sing quietly if we choose

OFFERING O God, our prayer is that, as we share these gifts,
you will widen the landscape of our seeing, feeling, and ethical
living,
so that we enhance the lives of all peoples particularly our First
Nations Peoples! Guide us in our generosity! ***Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Grounded in Truth, Walking Together in Courage
God of all,
Watcher and dreamer of all people,
Source of care, compassion and justice,
Keeper
The story of the First Peoples shines bright in this land,
For tens of thousands of years it the light burnt strong,
Deep culture,
Deep language,
Deep spirituality
Efficient technology
Sustainable living
Like an extension of the Garden of Eden
Then things changed,
Whether well-meaning or ill-meaning,
Whether selfish or ignorant
The coming of subsequent peoples to this land
Has wrought wrong
Harm has been done
Right left undone
And the First Peoples have suffered and continue to suffer.
Though the story is not all bad and there is good within it,
With courage we face the truths that are saddening and
upsetting.
We give thanks for the First Peoples of this land.
We recognise now their ancient sovereignty
We celebrate their wisdom.
We seek to learn from their custodianship.
We are sorry for the loss of land, language, culture and
story.
We are sorry for the suffering
But we are thankful for those who work together
Who listen to each other with courage and respect,

And seek to work together in reconciliation.
Help us to be such people,
May we open ourselves to the truth both good and ill
And commit to working and walking together with courage
That we might walk together,
Reconciled to a better future for all people.
This we pray.

Amen

*(Source: Jon Humphries, Facebook post, Walking Together
as First and Second Peoples, Uniting Church in Australia)*

HYMN *Brother sister let me serve you (TiS 650)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahERDrSCs>

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

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BLESSING

May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old.

Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land.

Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.

Let the light of God show us the right path
and stand tall like the big river gums
drawing life from the ever flowing waters.

(Source: Uncle Vince Ross)