

Welcome to Worship

Balmain Uniting Church

July 4th, 2021



Reconciliation and Dust?

Video : Common Grace

liturgy: Words for Worship, Uniting in Worship II, Uniting Church in Australia and Rev. James Aaron

CCLI #339483

This weeks Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians
12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

Acknowledgment of Country

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign

Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation, traditional custodians of this land with God. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice for all people and all creation.

Let us collect in silence.

— A Silent Collect —

Lighting the Christ light.

Christ is the light to the world.

And the darkness has not over come it.

Call to Worship

People of God,
Let us come to celebrate,
Let us come and bring our stories,

As we open ourselves to the stories of old,
As we open our own history,
As we worship and listen together.

Come to us, God of all,
We long to hear your wisdom.
We set aside our busyness and worries,
We come to this place,
Our screen, our couch, our dining room, our lounge room and our
bedrooms,
We come to each other,
We come to you.
Unexpected times, and in unexpected places
Together, as your people, we will celebrate your love.
Amen

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

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 so that we may
boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Affirmation

We declare our faith in God as Creator of the universe, the world in which
we live, and all living things on the face of the earth.

We believe that creation bears witness to the power and the presence of
the Triune God and calls us as God's people to praise, thanksgiving and
responsible stewardship of the earth.

We celebrate the richness and diversity of culture and language in our
world knowing that under God we are united in our common humanity.

We declare our faith in Jesus, Saviour and Lord whom God gave in love
for the world; who reconciled the world to God; and who through the gift
of the Spirit brought the church into being and prayed for its unity.

We believe that in Christ we are brothers and sisters together in the one
great family of God, called to live in faith, hope and love for the sake of
the Kingdom of God here on earth and in witness to God's final
reconciliation of all things

We celebrate the opportunity to learn, grow and serve together as a
pilgrim people in the name of Christ.

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Thanks be to God.

We pray thanks;
In you, God of hope,
There are always new beginnings,
New ministries, new companions, on our pathways.
We are encouraged by your gentle love,
Which you bring before us each day.
Never harsh or aggressive, you gently reveal to us
New pathways to live in Jesus' way.
We thank you that you draw us forward,
And help us learn from what has gone before.
Ever present, ever listening,
We are thankful that you stay with us,
For we may lose our way.
Amen.

Song:

The Liturgy of the Word

All Age Conversation

Reading

Mark 6:1-13

New Revised Standard Version

the Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2** On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of

Mary[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense[b] at him. **4** Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” **5** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. **6** And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. **7** He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. **8** He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; **9** but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. **10** He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. **11** If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” **12** So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. **13** They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

In this we hear the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace, peace and mercy are yours from the triune God, Creator, Christ and companion forever. Amen.

...

God may your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn/ Song:

Prayers of the People.

God of the trinity, lover of the world,
We commit our prayers for others, your world and ourselves today.

....

In your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

...

Open our eyes,
heal broken hearts and spirits,
teach us how to feed the hungry and provide shelter to those in need,
how to speak words of peace, and offer hope.
in all that we do and all that we say.

Amen.

Song

Prayers over the offering

We send out love and blessing with these gifts as they reach out into the
places in the world in which they are needed. May they be a sign of hope and
bring healing to the world.

Amen.

The Sending forth of the people of God

Commissioning and Blessing

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

**May the love of God enfold you,
The presence of Christ surprise you,
And the breath of the Spirit give you joy.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Amen