



**Epiphany 3 Yr A – 22nd January 2023
Aboriginal Day of Mourning 2023**

(Leader: *Heather* / Greeter: *Wendy*)

Meditation Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

Welcome:

Greeting:

On January 26 1938, Aboriginal leaders met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship in the land in which they lived.

The Australian Churches were then asked to set aside the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday, a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced. This morning we recognise with First Nations people a Day of Mourning. 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. We also come together and give thanks to God for the grace which enables us to face ourselves and the wrongs in our country and seek healing and be given the courage to repent and seek to mend our wrongs.

The God of all justice and the God of all peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

Today, as we gather to worship,
we acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal 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.

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.

Opening Prayer:

We are called to the day
We are called to this space
We are called to justice in the mourning

Not just for today but all that weeps from
today
All that sits in the layers of mourning,
embedded in the trail of injustice
Of removal
Of dispossession
Of stolen land
Of stolen children
Of stolen identity

Imposed policies on a sovereign peoples
Ancestral land,
The mourning as a mother weeps for her
child's hand
In the everyday dawning
First Peoples sit in intergenerational
mourning
We sit in silence and pray not just in the
pain of this day but of all that this day
weaves into - all the mourning, past,
present and future
Creator let us arise
Arise in justice and truth telling
Arise in the mourning of the weeping hills
Let us mourn but in the mourning, let us
look to the love that calls us to seek out
and speak out against injustice
To be present in footprints past
To be the advocates for change

Amen

Song: A man there lived in Galilee

***1 A man there lived in Galilee
like no one else before,
for he alone from first to last
our flesh unsullied wore;
a perfect life of perfect deeds
once to the world was shown,
that everyone might mark his steps
and in them place their own.***

**2 A man there died on Calvary
above all others brave;
he gave to all, he saved and blessed,
himself he scorned to save;
no thought can gauge the weight of woe
on him, the sinless, laid;
we only know that with his death
our ransom price was paid.**

**3 A man there stands at God's right hand,
divine, yet human still;
that grand, heroic, peerless soul
death sought in vain to kill.
All power is his: supreme he rules
all realms of time and space;
yet still our human cares and needs
find in his heart a place.**

Prayer of Confession:

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

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

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

We lament that in our own time the injustice and abuse has continued. We have been indifferent.

**Gracious God, hear our confession —
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor have we loved First Peoples and other neighbours as ourselves.
God of mercy, forgive us for our failures, past and present and
give us the grace today to make a fresh start.**

**By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts 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

Words of assurance:

This is the best of all:

When we are empty, God fills us;
when we are disheartened, God is compassionate; when we are wounded,
God brings healing; when we confess our sin, God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

You refill the cup of life, O God.

In Christ, we find refuge, strength and hope.

Amen.

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Song: Touch the earth lightly

***1. Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.***

***2. We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!***

***3. Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,***

*water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

**4. God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.**

Moment for the young at heart: Owl & Star - Dr Phil McCrea

Bible Readings: Rick Legge

Micah 6:6–8 NRSV

What God Requires

6 “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 4:7-12 NRSV

God Is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Clabon Allen

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Brian Lenehan

Give us the courage to
accept the realities of our history
so that we may build a better future for our nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Teach us to care for our land and waters.
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
to improve the quality of life
for all peoples in our communities,
especially the disadvantaged.
Help all young people to find true dignity
and self-esteem by your Spirit.
May your power and love
be the foundations on which we:
walk together as First and Second Peoples; and
build our families, our communities and our nation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Let us share the Aboriginal Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley"

You are Our Father, you live in heaven

We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)

We believe your Word Father

We your children, give us bread today (repeat)

We have done wrong, we are sorry

Help us Father not to sin again (repeat)

Others have done wrong to us

And we are sorry for them, Father today (repeat)

**Stop us from doing wrong, Father
Save us all from the evil one (repeat)**

**You are Our Father, you live in heaven
We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)**

Giving thanks: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that you have given us.
Use these gifts, here today, to be your light in the world
Amen.

Song: What does the Lord require

***1. 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.***

***2. Rulers of earth, give ear!
should you not justice show?
Will God your pleading hear,
while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.***

***3. Leaders in wealth and trade,
for whom the worker toils,
think not to win God's aid***

*if greed your commerce soils.
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God*

*5.How shall our life fulfill
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.*

Benediction & 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,
Until God's promised reconciliation of all creation is complete.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Alison

Acknowledgements:

Image: commongrace.org

Call to worship: liturgylink.wordpress.com

Prayer of confession: Adapted from Prayer for January 26th written by Rev Katherine Rainger

Blessing :Uncle Vince Ross

*The Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley
Diocese of Broome, Western Australia.*