



**Epiphany 2 Yr C – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Aboriginal Sunday 2025**

**(Leader: Roger Abrahams / Greeter: Mehry)**

**Meditation Hymn: As the deer pants for the water TIS 703**  
*(please remain seated)*

***As the deer pants for the water  
so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.***

***Refrain:  
You alone are my strength and shield;  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you***

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

On this second Sunday in Epiphany and Aboriginal Sunday 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 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 Gracious Christ,  
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.**

**Hymn: Brother sister let me serve you (TIS 650 )**

***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.***

***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.***

***I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear***

***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.***

***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.***

**Prayer of Confession:**

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, lament the injustice 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, lore and spirituality was 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 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:**

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator.  
You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others.  
Be at peace and live in hope.  
Hear then the words of Christ to us:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

**Thanks be to God**

**Amen.**

**Peace:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another from where we are seated.*

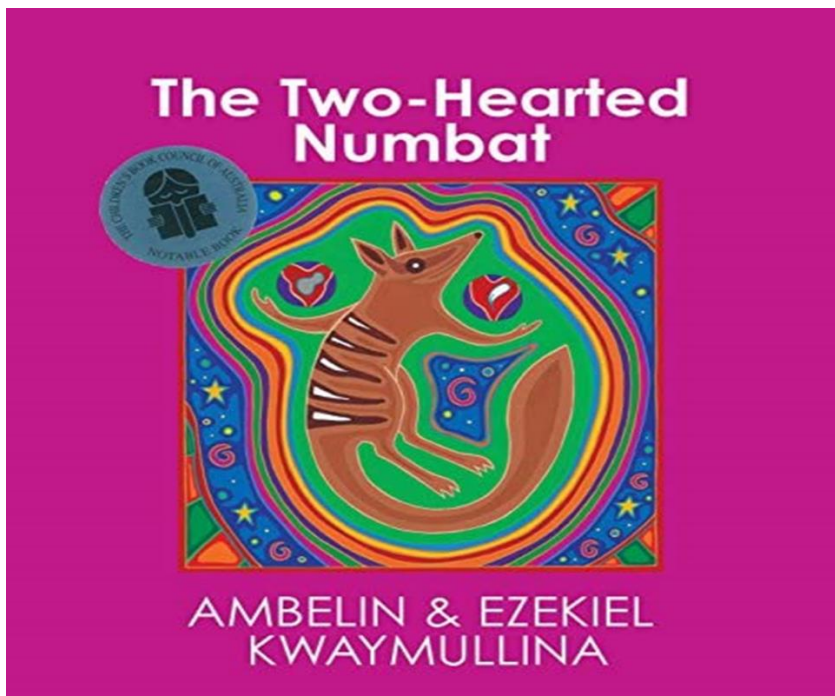
**Hymn: O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr TIS 253**

***1. O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr,  
all the power belongs to you.  
Hold me by this power,  
O Lord,  
You alone are king.***

***2. Now we praise you  
for your Word,  
living, true and full of light.  
Yours the hands***

***that rest on me:  
hold me for all time. (Repeat)***

**Moment for the young at heart:– Brian Lenehan**



**<https://au.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=two+hearted+numbat+read+aloud&type=E210AU1441G0#id=3&vid=c95b2ef7544112d881e01f4d682f6191&action>**

**Bible Readings: Marie Thompson**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

In Psalm 36, verses 5-10 offer an image-laden portrait of God's absolute steadfast love and faithfulness. These verses allows the listener to join with the psalmist in lifting up praise to Yahweh — who stretches wider than the heavens, who stands firmer than the mountains, whose understanding reaches to the depths of the earth, and who provides salvation, refuge, and fountains of life for all who turn to God. In a world plagued with uncertainties and loyalty only to self, the assurance verses 5-10 bring is rich indeed.

### **Psalm 36:5–10 (NIV)**

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. 10 Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

### **John 2 :1-11 The Wedding at Cana (NRSV)**

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Chris Longfoot**

***Moment of Stillness:***

**Prayers of the People: Alison Burnett**

**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**

**We believe your Word Father**

**We your children, give us bread today  
We have done wrong, we are sorry  
Help us Father not to sin again**

**Others have done wrong to us  
And we are sorry for them, Father today**

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

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

#### **Community News:**

- 21st January - Church Council Meeting
- 26th January - Australia Day
- 2nd February - Family Fun Church resumes
- 5th February - Wednesday Prayer/Communion resumes
- 17th February - Women's Spirituality Group resumes
- 9th March - Future Directions- Congregational meeting
- 16th March - Future Directions-Congregational meeting

#### **Offering Prayer:**

*As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world (either online or in the plate), let's pray our 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: Forever**

***1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King,  
His love endures forever.  
For He is good, He is above all things.  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise.***



***With a mighty hand and outstretched  
arm,  
His love endures forever.  
For the life that's been reborn,  
His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise,  
Sing praise, sing praise.***

***Ch:Forever God is faithful,  
Forever God is strong,  
Forever God is with us,  
Forever, forever.***

***2.From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
By the grace of God we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise  
Sing praise, sing praise***

***Ch:Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever, Forever***

### **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 peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Almighty God, Christ and Spirit.

**3-fold-Amen**

## **Pastoral Prayers: Christo Sarantarkis**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: A collection of artwork from Mrs. Taylor's art program at The Kinkaid School.*

*Call to worship: [www.redshoeswalking.net/an-australian-eucharist-for-lament-hope/](http://www.redshoeswalking.net/an-australian-eucharist-for-lament-hope/) Posted by Glenn Loughrey*

*Opening Prayer: Adapted from prayer written by Lea Maslen for the 2020 National #ChangeTheHeart Service.*

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

*The Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley*

*Diocese of Broome, Western Australia.*

*Blessing :Uncle Vince Ross*