

**Aboriginal Sunday - 25th January 2026**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Betty Lloyd</b>
<b>Meditation Hymn- O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr TIS 253</b>	<b>Music Team</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Christ Candle</b>	<b>??/Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Acknowledgment of Country</b>	<b>??</b>
<b>Call to Worship</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Hymn - TIS 657 - God of Freedom God of Justice</b>	<b>Music Team</b>
<b>Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>The Peace</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Hymn: A Blessing Hymn for Australia. (Michael Herry)</b>	<b>Music Team</b>
<b>Moment for the Young at Heart</b>	<b>Brian Lenehan</b>
<b>Readings : Joshua 1,9 and Hebrews 12,1-3.</b>	<b>Rick Legge</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Rev Clabon Allen</b>
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<b>Ron Brown</b>
<b>Lord's Prayer: Aboriginal Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley</b>	<b>Ron Brown</b>

<b>Community News</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Children Sharing</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Offering Prayer</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Song: We shall go out - Rev June Boyce-Tillman</b>	<b>Music Team</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>Alison Burnett</b>
<b>Amen + music</b>	<b>Music Team</b>
<b>Pastoral Prayers</b>	<b>Christo</b>



**Epiphany 3 Yr A – 25<sup>th</sup> January  
Aboriginal Sunday 2026**

**(Leader: Alison Burnett / Greeter: Betty Lloyd )**

**Meditation Hymn: O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr TIS 253**  
*(please remain seated)*

**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)**

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

On this third 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: TIS 657 - God of Freedom God of Justice**

**God of freedom, God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith --  
touch our world of sad oppression  
with your Spirit's healing breath.**

**Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
you whose hands were nailed to wood;  
hear the cries of pain and protest,  
you who shed the tears and blood --  
move in us the power of pity  
restless for the common good.**

**Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers  
of whatever race or creed --  
teach us to be fully human,  
open to each other's needs.**

### **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 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.

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: A Blessing Hymn for Australia. (Michael Herry)**

### **1. Ancient land of wide and sunburnt plains**

Where feet have long since trod  
You have known the stories of our search  
To find the face of God  
God, you hovered over darkness,  
When the road was silent still  
Then your voice rang out in splendour  
Creation knew your will.  
And your eyes in love beheld in light  
Our land of sweeping plains  
Now our voices too rejoin again  
Creation's song of praise.

### **2. Holy Spirit, gift of love divine**

With you we dare to dream  
So to walk in justice all our days  
This land of gold and green.  
From all nations we have gathered  
Lead us on in unity  
In this vast and rugged homeland  
May you our centre be.  
May our lives show forth your tender love  
Compassion, strong and bold  
Help us bring Good News to all the world,  
Your Spirit love unfold

### **3. Holy Spirit, breathe your life in us,**

Your truth to guide our way.  
Now with open hearts we hear your call,  
To follow you each day  
Bring us all as one together,  
Under southern stars above  
So the Cross will lead us onward  
Great south land of your love.  
Give us joyful hearts in days to come  
All fear and dark remove  
Help us build in Christ a world reborn  
In justice and in love.

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

**Bible Readings: Rick Legge**

**Joshua 1:9 (NIV)**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Clabon Allen**

*Moment of Stillness:*

**Prayers of the People: Ron Brown**

**Prayer for Courage, Justice, and Reconciliation**

God of all Nations,  
We come before You with humble hearts,  
Acknowledging the deep wounds of this land -  
Wounds of dispossession, injustice, and pain endured by  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.  
Lord, You call us to be strong and courageous,  
To walk alongside our First Nations sisters and brothers  
In love, truth, and justice.

Help us to listen deeply and to hear what we have not yet understood.

Grant us the courage to face uncomfortable truths,

The wisdom to seek justice,

And the strength to stand up for the oppressed.

We give thanks for the faithful witnesses

Who have journeyed before us -

Elders, leaders, and prophets of hope and resistance.

May their lives inspire us to persevere

In faith, power, and love.

Spirit of Truth, guide our hearts and our steps.

Teach us to walk together in friendship and respect,

To honour the rich cultures and stories of this land's First Peoples.

May our church be a place of reconciliation, healing, and justice,

A courageous community empowered by Your love.

We pray for healing for the wounds of history,

And for a future where all may flourish in dignity and peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Who calls us to courage and hope, we pray.

**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**

**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:**

26<sup>th</sup> January: Australia Day  
4<sup>th</sup> February: Wednesday Morning Prayer & Communion (resumes)  
16<sup>th</sup> February: Women's Spirituality Group (resumes)  
18<sup>th</sup> February: Ash Wednesday  
1<sup>st</sup> March: Welcome Liesel Homes as she begins her student practicum.  
1<sup>st</sup> March: St David's Day  
6<sup>th</sup> March: World day of Prayer  
7<sup>th</sup> March: Music Team 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: We shall go out - Rev June Boyce-Tillman**

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection,  
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,  
Tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,  
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.**

**We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
Vibrating love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,**

**Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
Including all within the circles of our love.**

**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.

**Amen.**

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Heather Thompson**

*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*