



Pilgrim

Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday, 31st May 2020

Pentecost
COCU39A

Today we gather in spirit, each in our own homes to give thanks and praise to God. For in God's great love for us, God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Acknowledgement of Land

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this Land and her Peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the Kurna people have blessed this place through their care and concern.

We pay our respects to their Elders and Leaders, past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this land.

Gathering of God's people

Today we celebrate Reconciliation Sunday, the first Sunday of National Reconciliation Week. Thursday 28th May 2020 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Reconciliation Walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge where 250,000 people walked together in an act of unity, calling for true reconciliation to be realised in this nation. This is still the largest public gathering in Australia's history. All other States and Territories joined in similar walks throughout the year 2000.

We recognise afresh the Covenant between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church in Australia. Reconciliation Sunday encourages us to participate in one of the major themes of our Christian faith. God was in Christ reconciling the world. We too can contribute to this reconciling by developing mutually respectful relationships between First and Second Peoples within congregations and the wider church.

Video: 'Listen to the Whisper' (Music and words: Geoff Boyce)

Psalm 104: 24-34 and 35B

Our God, we cannot count the living things that all pour out from your wisdom;
all creatures that cover the earth are yours.

Around us is the sea, deep and wide, which teems with countless fish,
and living creatures small and huge.

Out there is the restless ocean where the brave ships sail and enormous whales play.

All creatures depend on you, they look to you for food given in the right season.

As you freely give, they gather it; when you open your hands they are filled with good things.

If you hid your face, they would be dismayed, if you took away their breath, they would die
and their bodies return to the dust.

If you breathed again with your Spirit, they would be created again, renewing the face of the earth.

Please let your glory, God, last forever, smile on your handiwork and be happy

For if you frown, the earth will tremble, at your touch the mountains will smoke.

I will sing to my God as long as I live, I will give praise while I have being.

May my meditations give you pleasure, for I delight in you, loving God

With all my being I celebrate God! O yes, my soul! Praise God! *(B.D. Prewer 2000)*

Prayer of Adoration

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit, from the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of Mother Earth. You spoke and the gum tree grew. In the vast desert and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge, Creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope.

In Jesus, we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth;

enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past

into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Aunty Rev'd Leonore Parker, used with permission)

Song: ATW 494 For you, deep stillness
For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ, In the name of Christ

(Words: Julie Perrin; Music: Robin Mann)

Prayer of Lament and Confession

Gracious God of all, we acknowledge that we receive so many gifts from you, and we thank you for them all.

However, we also gather in the knowledge that there have been times when we, in part or in whole, have caused loss, hurt and pain.

At this time, we humbly acknowledge the actions that have been taken by us which caused pain or loss to the First Peoples of our land, for the years it took for the First Peoples to be embraced by the Church, for the mistreatment, abuse and neglect of those vulnerable people who placed their faith in the church and its care, for the harsh words, lack of care, ignorance, insensitivity and pride that have damaged relationships and the people so dear to you.

We are sorry for these sins against you and First Peoples - our brother and sisters.

We pray for forgiveness and reconciliation.

As you brought reconciliation through Jesus, we pray that you will also enable all of us to become reconciled to one another through the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

(Rev Mark Schultz)

Song: Hear our cry before we call

1. We long for the days when the cries of distress are stilled
and the sound of weeping is heard no more:
when the taste of laughter fills the mouths of the people
and joy is in the land.

*Spirit of a new beginning,
hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
give us courage to endure.*

2. We long for the days when the hammer of arms is hushed
and the threat of warring is fear no more:
when the pulse of freedom fires the hearts of the people
and peace is in the land.

*Spirit of a new tomorrow,
hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
give us courage to endure.*

3. We long for the days when the lost of the earth are home
and the pain of hunger is felt no more:
when the dream of harvest lights the way of the people
and hope is in the land.

*Spirit of a new creation,
hear our cry before we call.
Answer when the time is ready;
give us courage to endure.*

(Words: Neil Quintrell. Music: Norm Inglis)

Video: Dusty Feet Mob - 'This story's true', with Archie Roach
<https://vimeo.com/386892114>

This video was created by Aboriginal community members in Port Augusta, in collaboration with award-winning production company Change Media, through an initiative of the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC), Country Arts SA and the City of Port Augusta. Dusty Feet Mob are more than just an Aboriginal dance group. They are a community that nurtures strength, confidence and dignity. They are a community that builds connection to culture, community and country. They know that storytelling through dance and song is their culture, it's a powerful way of entering into past hurts and injustices experienced by Aboriginal families in a way that allows both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to grow in acceptance, understanding and empathy together.

A time for reflection

Reading Acts 2: 1-17

Reflection Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting Officer, SA UCA Synod
Peter Russell, Pilgrim Uniting Church

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 3-13
<https://animoto.com/play/2e7a1wEjl9SAlocjW00Mqw>

Reflection Tarlee Leondaris

Song: ATOK313 Christ be our light

1.
Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us your own, your holy people
Light for the world to see.
*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2.
Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Chorus*

3.
Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed. *Chorus*

4.
Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone. *Chorus*

5.
Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come. *Chorus*

(Words and music: Bernadette Farrell)

Offering for the Pilgrimage of Healing

The UAICC Youth Ministry encourages young people to follow Jesus. The Youth Ministry has developed a number of remarkable young leaders. These young leaders have spiritual gifts in their ministries as well as Aboriginal cultural knowledge developed on their respective Country. Every Uniting Church in Australia stands on the sacred lands of First Peoples. We must continue to learn the history of these sites. UAICC young leaders are the key to ensuring the history sharing continues. If you are able, please contribute to this important ministry. Please use the banking details below and enter the transaction as 'Pilgrimage of Healing'.

Account name: UAICC Youth Ministry
BSB: 704095 Account number: 213824

Or you could post a cheque to Pilgrim made out to "Pilgrimage of Healing". We will make sure your donation gets to the right place. We are sorry we can't provide special envelopes this year.

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
Bless these offerings to provide opportunities for the UAICC Youth Ministry. Please send your Spirit on these young people in all the work they do Bless these young leaders through discipleship and formation. May these leaders continue to encounter your Spirit on Country as their ancestors did for thousands of years before them. In the name of our Lord Jesus. **Amen.**
(Tarlee Leondaris)

Prayers of the People: Prayer for Reconciliation

God of love, Creator of this land and of all:
The people who had lived here for thousands of years,
a people whose soul is one with this earth and will always be,
and now the boat people who arrived since a few hundred years ago,
not understanding how much is lost, how much was taken,
We all turn to you.
Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.

Our hope is in you.

We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another as you love us, as you forgive us, as you accept us with the gift of your Son.
You gave us: one baptism, one faith, one God.

Our hope is in you.

Help us to build with wisdom, even if we have looked for other ways, seeking power before grace.
Help us to build in your strength, even when we are fickle and wilful.
Help us to love with your love, even when we would rather barter and forget the Source of your love in us.

Our hope is in you.

You are the creator of us, forever reconnecting us to your kingdom 'where there is no Greek nor Jew, no slave or free, no rich or poor, no male or female', even if we bring divisions and mark differences in the kingdoms we have built.

Our hope is in you.

Lord, bring our opposites together in the same way.
You make barren land flourish. You bring waters where only dust tells the story.
You let whales jump for joy out of the waters. You invite the wallaby to bounce up mountains.
You nourish the koalas with dry gum leaves and help the wombat find food in the dark,
the echidna to fullness on ants.
Lord, we ask you to bring the opposites in us, around us, together,
in honouring the pain, treasuring the truth, working for one peace, one love, one hope.
We only have you, ready to love us, ready to connect us, ready to nourish us.
With the goodness of your hand, in the love of Christ and with the Spirit of reconciliation. **Amen.**
(Rev Liellie McLaughlin)

Song: SfP33 Offering Song

1.
Move within our giving, Spirit of renewing.
Breathe into our living strength enough to serve.
As we bring our offerings, life and love and laughter
and our daily tasks are offered with our gifts.

2.
Touch in our greeting, Spirit of our healing.
Weave into our being grace enough to love.
Move within our giving, Spirit of renewing.
Breathe into our living strength enough to serve.

3.
In this risk of giving, hope and hurt and healing
are alike received, accepted as we give.
Lead us in our leaving, Spirit of our calling,
Present in our going, surprise us on our way.

(Words: Neil Quintrell. Music: Norm Inglis)

Benediction

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands
remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.
May the gum tree, from its roots to its branches,
remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.
May the eagle, who soars in the sky,
remind us of the power, in our call for love.
May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,
remind us of God's tming in our faith in hope.
May the holy three - Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus, remind us of community.
So go with grace, mercy and peace, go in truth, justice, love and hope.

(Brooke Prentis)

Song We are the Church

Chorus:
We are, we are the church where we are
We carry the Way in our hearts
Caring together, apart.

Verse:
Free... _free for the fight for equality
The freedom to live life with dignity
That comes from a sharing humanity
(repeat)

(Music and words: Geoff Boyce)

*This service has been prepared by Rev Sandy Boyce incorporating elements of the 2020
Reconciliation Sunday resource by Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting Officer, SA UCA Synod.*

We thank those who contributed to the resource,

and those who participated in the service - Sandy Boyce, Di and Peter Russell, Tarlee Leondaris, and Chelsea Size.

Thanks to Norm Inglis for support with the music and to

Thanks also to Dusty Feet for permission to use 'This story's true' with music by Archie Roach.

The video of the service is available from YouTube/Pilgrim Uniting Church Adelaide



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

12 Flinders Street
GPO Box 116, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 08 8212 3295
Fax: 08 8212 9637
E-mail: office@pilgrim.org.au
ABN: 14 903 697 626