

Order of Service 31-1-21 Day of Mourning

Prelude

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Getting Ready

Jenne

Welcome to Brunswick Uniting Church, my name is Jenne your liturgist for this Brunswick Uniting Church service. Just a few housekeeping matters before we start:

- Please make sure you have signed in, either using your phone or on the pieces of paper at the entry.
- Please spread out keeping 1.5 meters between households – use the yellow marks on the pews as a guide.
- Please keep your masks on (including for singing) unless you are leading worship.
- There will be no morning tea provided today, but please stay on to chat

Now let's prepare in body and soul to worship God, breathing deep and listening together to the song Birrama Mana performed by University High Cantabile choir. The song is in the Yorta Yorta language and describes river red gums home to many native animals.

Recorded Song

Birrama Mana. Song by Deborah Cheetham and Jessica Hitchcock. Performed by University High Cantabile choir

Brian's painting *This painting is by Brian Birch a Wurundjeri man and member of BUC who lives in Brunswick at ACES the Aboriginal Community Elders Service, on the edge of the Merri Creek. Thank you, Brian, for the artwork we are seeing throughout this service. May your people be honoured today.*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jenne

Welcome to worship in person & over the internet.

Feel the ground beneath you –
the land of Wurundjeri-Woiworung Tribe
or the First Nations people of wherever you may be today.
Here on this land, O God, we come to worship You.

Christ candle is lit

Introduction and Call to Worship

Jenne

Respecting and honouring the First Nations people of the land on which BUC stands, today's service gives expression to our commitment to justice, healing and truth-telling on the Sunday after January 26th, Invasion Day, a Day of Mourning.

Today we lament the truth of our shared history and lift up to God our prayers for our nation, First Peoples and later comers. We will listen to First People's voices, celebrate their ongoing culture and reflect together on the effects of invasion, colonisation and violent dispossession.

The resources in this service are taken from Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and the Common Grace movement.

Let us worship God, giving thanks for the abundant grace and liberating hope which we know through Jesus Christ and which is for the healing of the nations and the building up of all people.

Prayer 'Our Land is Alive'

Tom

From Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

Let us pray:

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.
Amen

Gathering Song

Oh Lord Jesus, Marrkapmirr TIS253

'Marrkapmirr' is a term of endearment, and means in this context 'altogether lovely, and worthy of affection'.

- 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.*
-

SONG: O Lord Jesus, Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious; used with permission.

Acknowledgement of Country

Kirsty Brown

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.

They have never ceded sovereignty.

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 are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen,
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.
**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.**

Prayer of Adoration

Jenne

In the Adnyamathanha language of the Flinders Ranges, SA, Arrawatanha means God/Most High and Ngapala Nguthana means Our Maker. The meaning of Althaninda is Happy are you. From Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

Blessings for a Sacred Place

Leader: Arrawatanha Ngapala Nguthana
Most High Our Maker
The land you have given us, your children.
Look on this place ...
this special place where you live;
this special place where your glory rests.
Look upon this sacred place
where your name is honoured.
Help us keep it as our Ancestors did.

Leader: Althaninda

Response: **Happy are you.**

Amen

Video clip of Aunty Jean Phillips (3 mins)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1swb99Ub28IEfHgvAzmCu502X7TBQPtR7>

Children's Time

Dave and Clare Keogh

Song – Yil Lul

*I sing for the black, and the people of this land.
I sing for the red, and the blood that's been shed.
Now I'm singing for the gold of a new year, young and old*

*Yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay.
Yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay.*

*I sing unto Him of the Most High
I sing so much praises it makes me want to cry.
Now I'm singing just for you, so all can recognise.*

*Yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay.
Yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay, yil lull lay.*

*(I'm) Singing for the black
Singing for the red
Singing for the black
Singing for the red and the gold*

Stories told for young and old

Yil lull lay...

*(we) Sing for the black
(and we) Sing for the red and the gold
Stories told for young and old*

*I'm singing for the black
I'm singing for the red and the gold
Just for you, for young and old*

Yil lull lay...

Yil Lull © Joe Geia 1988. Transcribed from original studio recording (apologies for any errors).
Used with permission under One Licence.

Hebrew Scriptures

Claire Foley

Amos 5: 21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Prayer of Confession

Valentina

Aboriginal #ChangeTheHeart Prayer written by Bianca Manning

Creator God

As we come to you and take this time to be still, to reflect, to listen and pray, we ask that you would speak and have your way in our hearts.
You formed these ancient lands now called Australia and the boundaries of each Aboriginal nation. Every plant, animal, river, mountain, and all created things have their place and purpose. Our languages, songlines, dances and stories still connect us to you and guide us to worship you along with all creation.
Lord, you have seen and felt the disruption, the murder, theft, pain and injustice. The land is blood-stained. The cries of our people echo in the silence. Trauma and grief overwhelm us. We lament together and ask that the truth will be brought into the light. The truth that will bring freedom and healing.
We pray that justice will roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream. Raise up our people and empower us with your strength. Bring alongside us our non-Indigenous brothers and sisters and help their eyes to be open and hearts to be soft. You are the ultimate redeemer, and in the same way that you reconciled us back to you, you call us to be reconciled to one another. To love one another as you have loved us. To be one as you are one, yet recognising that we are diverse, different parts of the same body. You give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and the garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. We receive a double portion and everlasting joy in your presence. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Lament and Truth Telling (activity & reflection)

Jenne

You have in your hand (on your seat) part of our Country.
This is to connect you with Country - to hear the cries of stolen lands;
The 65,000 years plus of First Peoples country;
and to hear the voices of sorrow;
and our own part in this as colonisers.

Please sit in silence for a minute and reflect how we live and benefit from their untold history and how we can accept responsibility for the past and current oppression and Racism and the privilege we have.

Silence for one minute

If the truth will set us free do you know the true history of these lands now called Australia? The next section of the service asks a number of questions to help us all analyse where we are on the journey and how we can start to learn to take the next step of learning and understanding.

Truth Telling: Do we know? Common Grace Resources

Abi, Jamie, Claire

SLIDE 13 – Map



<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia>

Abi: Do we know the over 65,000 years of history pre-colonisation of these lands now called Australia?
Can we name five examples of the Aboriginal nations of the over 300 nations of Aboriginal peoples in these lands now called Australia?
Do we know there are over 200 islands in the Torres Strait, about 14 are inhabited by humans and the islands are grouped into five major islands groups represented by the five pointed star on the Torres Strait Islander flag?

SLIDE 14 - Dark Emu, First Australians, Yarta Wandatha



Jamie: Do we know three great resources are:

- Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe?
- First Australians the SBS series, that you can watch on demand?
- Yarta Wandatha by Aunty Rev Denise Champion?

SLIDE 16 - Massacres

Massacres

The University of Newcastle
Colonial Frontier Massacres in Central and Eastern Australia 1788-1930
<https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/map.php>

The slide features a map of Australia with numerous yellow and blue dots indicating the locations of colonial frontier massacres. The map is labeled with state and territory names: Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Major cities like Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne are also marked. The text on the right provides the title of the resource, the institution (The University of Newcastle), and a URL to access the map.

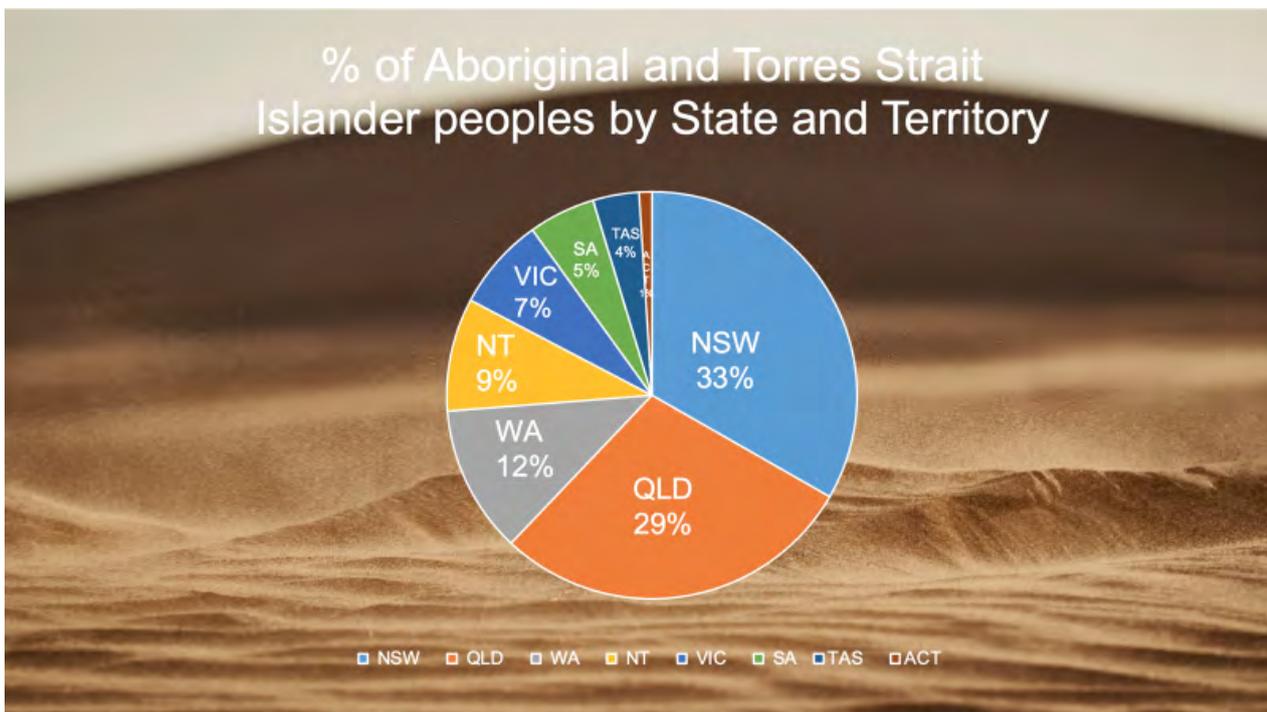
Claire: Do we know about the Frontier Wars, the Massacres, and the Genocide?

SLIDE 17 - Posters



Abi: Do we know that “Australia Day” has not always been on January 26? It was previously held on July 30, July 28, October 5 and in August.
 Do we know it was not until 1994, that January 26 was set aside as a national public holiday in every State and Territory?

SLIDE 18 - Pie chart



Jamie: Aboriginal peoples were 100% of the Australian population. Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are approximately 3% (2.8%) of the Australian population and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population levels have not recovered to the levels pre-1788.
 Do we know the largest community of Aboriginal peoples in Australia is Sydney, followed by Brisbane?
 Do we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples get nothing for free? No

free house, no free land, no free car, no free University education; nor do they get any additional benefits from the government?

SLIDE 19 – Statistics

- In the last 10 years, an 88% increase in prison incarceration
- 15 times more likely to be imprisoned
- Children and young people, some as young as 10 years of age, are 26 times more likely to be in detention
- 1 in 3 experience racism and discrimination

Claire: Do we know that in the last 10 years there has been an 88% increase in prison incarceration of Aboriginal peoples, that Aboriginal peoples are 15 times more likely to be imprisoned, that Aboriginal children and Aboriginal young people, some as young as 10 years of age, are 26 times more likely to be in detention? Do you know that 1 in 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience racism and discrimination? Do you know that behind every report and statistic are real peoples lives? For our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters the statistics are their Aunties, Uncles, Nans, Grandfathers, Mothers, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews, Cousin Brothers and Cousin Sisters.

Song

LAMENT for a people with a dulled heart (S. Whelan 2013)

*Why do we listen and fail to hear?
Why do we see and not perceive?
We have turned away and our heart has grown dull
Heal us, help us to grieve
Heal us, help us to grieve*

*Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...
Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...*

*Why do we listen and fail to hear?
Why do we see and not perceive?
We have turned away and our heart has grown dull
Heal us, help us believe
Heal us, help us believe*

*Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...
Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...SONG:*

Lament, by Shawn Whelan, 2013, written for the BUC Boundless Plains series, used with permission.

Gospel Reading

Kirsty Brown

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Video Brooke Prentis 8 mins.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1swb99Ub28IEfHgvAzmCu502X7TBQPtR7>

Offering & Commitment Time

Ian

Ian: Brooke Prentis challenges us to step together with open hearts into a new day: to sit together by the rolling river of justice and sing together of freedom and love.

In response, I invite you now to make an offering and take up a commitment. Come forward, if you are able, bring the offering of your heart and, if you have it, money for the work of God’s justice through the church. And choose one of cards that have been placed here – take it home with you. They speak of commitments that we can take up about listening and working for justice together with First Nations peoples.

Song of Freedom

Chorus

Sing a song of freedom Sing a song of love

Sing with hope that hope will come and Christ will come in us x2

Verse 1

We’re longing for redemption For true freedom to come

A fully giving over to the perfect way of love

We’re praying for revival That we would count the cost

Giving ourselves over to the way of the cross

Verse 2

*Complacent days are over It's time to make a stand
And listen to the voices calling out across these lands
They're crying out for justice For the truth yet to be told
Our hearts to be unsettled as the ancient paths unfold*

Bridge

*Jesus, you came to save, to save
Jesus, you gave your life to unveil, unveil
Jesus, you rose from the grave, to unchain, unchain
Jesus, you're restoring it all, for all, in all*

© Helen Wright 2019, HeartCries Worship

Prayers of the People

Valentina and Tom

Please pray with us...

God of all creation, we pray for your people, the First Peoples of this land, created in your image, who have walked as one with the land and fashioned the world's oldest continuous human culture, yet still encounter ongoing ignorance, injustice and oppression. May your justice roll down as healing waters.

God of hope, we pray for those who mourn and are grieving the loss of their land, their ancestors, their family members, relatives and friends. We especially think of those grieving the many lives that continue to be gone too soon, often in the prime of their lives. We also think of those young men and women uprooted from country and culture undergoing incarceration, that there may be hope. May your justice and comfort envelope them as healing waters.

God of wisdom, we pray for our leaders - the leaders of this nation, our Communion, our community. May their decisions be just and lifegiving for those struggling to survive through years of trauma. May you help soften our collective hearts to acknowledge the realities of trauma, while also recognising First Peoples' capacity for survival. May your Spirit rain down as healing waters.

God of love, we pray for this resource rich-land as we mourn the ongoing violation of this, your creation. May we tread gently and let it be the earth you created it to be. May wisdom rain down so we the people allow this land to heal and flourish.

In the next few moments of silence, lift those you wish to hold in God's light....

God of grace and peace, hear our prayers and grant us the humility to walk alongside each other as you accompany us. May we lift our voices and live our holy calling to love one another and love your creation, now and always.

Amen.

Notices

Ian

Video – Amazing Grace Paul Kelly & Dr Yunupingu

Sing along and hum along with the non-English verses

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xkyqq1o1304uvgw/Amazing%20Grace%20%28Gurrumul%20and%20Paul%20Kelly%29.mp4?dl=0>

Blessing /dismissal

Ian

written by Brooke Prentis commongrace.org.

May the God of all wonder who set the stars in the sky,
bless you with relentless unsettledness –
that drives you to seek truth.
May the God of all justice who gave motion to the rivers,
bless you with righteous anger –
that drives you to seek freedom for all.
May the God of all love who placed laughter in the kookaburra,
bless you with the friendship –
that looks like the love where one lays down their life for another.
May the God of all comfort who determined the height of the mountains,
bless you with tears from shared pain and mourning –
that shows you hope.
Now with wonder, righteous anger, sacrifice, and lament –
Go in truth, justice, love, and hope –
to Change The Heart of Australia.

In the name of the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus. Amen

Postlude

let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Thank Yous

Liturgist:
Jenne Perlstein

Walking Together Group:
Abi Benham-Bannon
Claire Foley
Jenne Perlstein
Valentina and Tom
Satvedi-Leydon
Jamie Thom
Shawn Whelan

Muscians:
Shawn Whelan
(Coordinator)
James Balsillie
Alistair Hunter
Clare Keogh
Courtney Rohde
Melvin Tan

Amazing Grace performed
by Paul Kelly & Dr
Yunupingu

Prayers:
Written by Aboriginal
People from Common
Grace and UAICC
Led by Valentina and Tom
Satvedi-Leydon

Acknowledgement of
Country:
Kirsty Brown

Children's Time:
Dave Hall (Children and
Families' Pastor)
Clare Keogh
"Welcome to Country" by
Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa
Kennedy

Lament and Truth Telling:
Abi Benham-Bannon
Claire Foley
Jamie Thom

Video Reflections:
Aunty Jean Phillips
Brooke Prentis

Offering and Commitment
Time:
Ian Ferguson (Minister of
the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Valentina and Tom
Satvedi-Leydon

Laptop:
Jane Allardice
Live Stream:
Ray Cameron
Sound:
Alistair Hunter

Production:
Saide Cameron
Jenne Perlstein