

WESLEY WORSHIP 9:00

Epiphany 2 | UCA Day of Mourning

19 January 2020

Gathering

Welcome and News

Greeting

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.

Tis 253 O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr - *Please remain seated*

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

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.

Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land
Verified by D'Arcy Wood 1936-

Marrkapmirr means "altogether lovely, and worthy of affection".*

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Today, as we gather to worship,
we acknowledge the 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.**

How shall we sing?

How shall we sing the Lord's song
in this strange land?
How shall we sing the Lord's song
in this strange land?
This endless desert
These golden sands
This blue horizon
These green islands
How can we sing the song?
How can we sing the song?

How shall we hear God's story
of this strange land?
How shall we hear God's story
of this strange land?
This timeless dreaming
These rocks and bones
This wisdom people
Their ancient home
How can we sing the song?
How can we sing the song?

*Come hear a new song
Come hear a new song
Come sing it loud
Come sing it strong*

How shall we cry God's weeping
for this strange land?
How shall we cry God's weeping
for this strange land?
This broken homeland
These stolen years
Their hidden history
This trail of tears
How can we cry the song?
How can we cry the song?

How shall we live God's story
in this strange land?
How shall we live God's story
in this strange land?
With eyes wide open
and gaping hearts
With truthful longing
and stumbling start
How can we live the song?
How can we live the song?

*Come sing a new song
Come sing a new song
Come sing it loud
Come sing it strong*

How can we bring the Lord's peace
in this strange land?
How can we bring the Lord's peace
in this strange land?
With justice raining
When poor are blessed
With love outpouring
From east to west
How can we bring the song?
How can we bring the song?

*Come sing a new song
Come sing a new song
Come sing it loud
Come sing it strong
Come sing a new song
Come sing a new song
Come sing it loud
Come sing it strong*

lyrics: Craig Mitchell © 2018 music: David MacGregor © 2018

Blessings for a Sacred Place

Leader: Arrawatanha, Ngapala Nguthana

Response: Most High, Our Maker

All: 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.

Light the community candle

Comfort, comfort, all my people: *new words for the bush fires*

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
"All your sins are taken away."*

Though our land is burned and blackened,
rooves & walls beyond repair
Animals are lost or homeless
comfort, comfort!
Volunteers throughout the country
serving, weary, giving all
helping strangers, friends & neighbours
comfort, comfort!

Though our houses have been taken
memories, treasures lost & gone
one destroyed but one is standing
comfort, comfort!
Still so much has been defended
next-door-heroes risk their lives
every deed will be remembered
comfort, comfort!

Words & Music © 2020 Robin Mann

Prayer of confession / lament – *we speak this together*

Merciful God,
we, the Second Peoples of this land,
acknowledge and lament
the injustice and abuse
that has so often marked
the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.
We acknowledge and lament
the way in which their land was taken from them
and their language, culture, law and spirituality
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 acknowledge and lament
that in our own time
the injustice and abuse has continued.
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.
Liberating Jesus, hear our lament and

by your Spirit bring healing, hope and transformation to the lives of our First Nations sisters and brothers and their communities, we pray.

Gracious God, hear our acknowledgements —
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.

Declaration of Forgiveness

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.

Entering the Story

Children's song: ATW 489 Turn our sadness upside down

Turn our sadness upside down
Take our tears and turn them round.
Touch us, heal us, lift us up when we fall down.
Turn our sadness upside down.

Rescue us from our despair.
Comfort us when we are scared,
Hold us, calm us, tell us of your love and care.
Rescue us from our despair.

Give us hope for days to come.
Give us strength to carry on.
Recreate us, resurrect us with your song.
Give us hope for days to come.

Jesus, help us on our way.
Heal these broken hearts, we pray.
Mend us, tend us, set us on your road each day.
Jesus, help us on our way.

Words and music: Leigh Newton

Story with children

Bible reading: John 1:29-42

page 862

Preaching

TiS 585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Sent into the World

Prayers of the people

Offering

as we sing :

ATO 413 The Summons

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
and you in me?

Will you let the blinded man see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you,
and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell that fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you,
and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go,
where your love and footsteps show,
thus I'll move and live and grow in you,
and you in me.

Words and music: The Iona Community

Dedication of offering

Word of Mission

Blessing

Dismissal

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. Amen.

Liturgist: Rev Dr Sarah Agnew | Preacher: Andrew Wright

*Prayers: Uniting Church Assembly Day of Mourning resource
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