



## **Call to worship**

Let us worship God

The world belongs to God,  
**The earth and all its people.**

Love and peace come together,  
**Justice and peace join hands.**

How good and how lovely it is  
**To live together in unity.**

If the Lord's disciples keep silent  
**These stones would shout aloud.**

Lord, open our lips  
**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

*Uniting in Worship 2*

**Song 'For you deep stillness'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpRWWnZa6Ro>

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  
(In the name of Christ)

CCLI Song # 2563901  
Julie Perrin | Robin Mann

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- Mann, Robin

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## **Prayer of confession**

**Gracious God of all,  
We with hearts of thanksgiving acknowledge that we receive so many gifts at your hands 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 people's 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 lack of welcome and cold hearts, for harsh words, lack**

of care, ignorance, insensitivity and price that have damaged relationships and the people so dear to you.

**We are sorry for these sins against you and First peoples.**

**We pray for forgiveness and reconciliation.**

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

**Amen.**

**By Rev. Mark Schultz**

### **Affirmation of Hope in Christ**

Some demand signs and others seek insight, but we have only Christ crucified, stumbling block and folly to the wisdom of our time.  
Jesus Christ is the power and wisdom of God  
Surely wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

In faith, we appeal to God.

In hope, we will not let God go.

In love we claim God's attention.

Let us honour the God who receives our cries,

And gathers us to herself even as we continue to call.

**Amen.**

*Uniting in Worship 2*

### **Prayer of Adoration in Song**

**TiS. 253 O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr ( Australian Aboriginal Melody )**

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.**

### **Scripture reading**

Psalm 130

Mark 3 : 20 – 35

**Contemporary Witnesses** : George Osborne, Deborah Wall

**Reflection** “ *Who is my mother* “ *Who are my brother and sister ?*”

**Mark 3: 20 -35**

“ *Who is my mother , Who are my brother and sister ?*”

It might sound intrusive to Westerners, when people ask questions like “ Are you married ?  
“ Do you have children?” or a blunt question like “ How old are you ?”

In Korea, it is absolutely essential to find out personal information such as where you are from, what is your family name, and how old you are in order to address you appropriately and build a relationship accordingly. And these days people also know how to find out this information in more subtle ways.

They would find out whether they are connected through blood relationships by asking “What is the origin of your family root?” By asking “Which high school did you go to and when? “they can figure out whether the person is older or younger than them and how much they might share common experiences with the other person.

Especially among men, they usually ask “What was your military service number?” Because every Korean man is subscribed for a military service, this information will give them a sense of comradeship.

In all these background check questions, establishing family connection is by far the most important link that people are hoping to build into their lives. I am sure that this is not exclusive to the Korean or Asian context.



In 2016, I was invited to the Synod meeting of the Northern Synod. During the afternoon tea on the first day of the Synod, a woman from Milingimbi adopted me as her sister, Yukuyuku, a younger sister. I had never met anyone from Arnhem land before, nor had I ever heard about the practice of Yolngu people adopting Balanda, an outsider, to help them find their place in the community.

On that day , I was introduced to my Yapa’s (older sister’s) family: her sister, her sister-in-law, her son, her niece, her nephew, her grandchildren who instantly became my sister, my son, my niece , my nephew and my grandchildren.

My Yapa and I share only a few words in the language of Yolngu people of Arnhem land, “Mayinmak” , well or okay , “ChooChooji”, good bye, farewell, yet we share deep love for each other and for our family, her children and my children, her place and my place and her work and my work.

In the gospel reading for today from Mark, we are encountering a slightly different family situation.

Because of the straightforward, vigorous way Jesus' ministry of healing, teaching and forming a new community was being carried out, his own family somehow wasn't sure about his ministry. And also some people were saying "He is out of his mind" the family went out to restrain him. Perhaps that was what the family would do with an insane member of the family at that time. Keep them locked inside.

Furthermore, the Scribes, the religious authority from Jerusalem reinforced this idea by saying "He is actually in league with the demonic powers".

Both the family and the religious leaders reacted in this way to Jesus because they did not recognise what was happening in the work of Jesus, miraculous healing, driving out demons and forming a new community. **They were unable to see God's grace, love and justice in the ministry of Jesus.**

Likewise, when we confuse what is good with what is evil, we too lose our capacity to recognise God and experience healing and salvation.

"Who is my mother, who are my sisters and brothers?" Jesus was giving a whole new concept of family.

Although it sounds dismissive of his family, Jesus did not reject his mother and sisters and brothers but rather he expanded the circle of family beyond the narrow ties of blood relationship, geographical connection and one's own interest group to a web of relationships that opens up a whole host of others, to anyone who does what God wants.

He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what God wants is my brother, my sister, my mother."

Jesus shifted the minds of people who focus on the status of the person they are encountering, to the action required, in response to the call of God. Relationships in the family of God are couched in terms of doing the will of God.



In 2018, when I decided to leave the Northern Territory, my Yapa asked the Bible translation service to take her to Darwin so that she could farewell me. I knew that she then had to stay another two weeks to complete the translation work she was committed to do, away from her home and family. My Yapa made a sacrifice because of her love for me.

The Poet Robert Frost, in his poem “ The Death of the Hired man”, said “ *Home is the place where when you have to go there they have to take you in*”

Jesus today invites us to join his surrogate family, the new family he introduced, which has its value in doing the will of God.

Today we are celebrating Reconciliation Week, which invites individuals, families, communities, organisations and our whole nation to build a relationship between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and to value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, histories, cultures and futures. And the theme of this year’s Reconciliation Week is “More than a word. Reconciliation takes action”.



**Hymn of reflection** TiS 650 “ Brother Sister let me serve you “

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

5. 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.

6. 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.

CCLI Song # 72673  
Richard Gillard

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## Offertory prayer

### Prayers of the People

When I prepare my prayers of the people, I draw on past experiences and readings , that have brought some kind of influence into my life.

So how do you pray?

Do you speak to god in everyday language, - or are you a “King James version” prayer warrior ?

Are you only a crisis Christian with prayer, i.e. Only when things are bad !

Or do you chat to God all the time.

*Just remember that if you are praying while driving your car, don't shut your eyes !!!!*

There is no right or wrong way to pray.

God just loves to hear from us at anytime, even late, because after all, --- he's going to up all night anyway !

*There seems to be a lot of newborn babies gifted to parents during the night ? or is that an illusion ?*

Two events occurred for me over the past couple of weeks, -- they remind me how great God really is.

The first was the big moon visions that we saw just over a week ago

As I headed off down the hill at about 5:45am, the full moon was still high in the pre-dawn sky out to the west.

I thought to myself

*“wow!!--- God must have left the light on !!”*

Then a few days ago, Susie and I were out at Parkes looking at the big radio telescope (the dish)

I thought to myself

*“It looks like a big ear listening for what god is saying to us!!”*

Let us take a few moments to rest in silence and listen for what god is saying to us as we continue our faith journey

Silence .....

Thank you Father for what you are saying to us today

Now let us give thanks for the answered prayers and blessings we have received.

Silence.....

Lord God, you are a generous and loving God

You restore us and heal us day by day of so many of our burdens, worries  
We trust you ..... help us to always be mindful of your daily gifts

### **Creation.**

We live in a beautiful part of the country that you created so long ago.  
In many parts of the world, you provided First Nations and Indigenous people to nurture and care for your creation, and yet so often they have been swept aside during the Colonization and development of our current way of living.

Help us to turn to these first nations and Indigenous people who carry so many stories and wisdom,.... That can benefit us into the future

### **Conflict**

Countries are at war with each other all around the globe  
And even within their own borders  
Lord we pray for a calming spirit to sweep across these places, and allow differences to be settled by negotiations of fairness and justice, ...not by using weapons of destruction

We pray that the voices of people in every country, will be heard and acknowledged , ..  
Especially by dictatorial governments.

We pray for an end to the journeys and misery of desperate refugee families in Africa,  
Middle East and Europe  
Help these people find safety and hope,.. and be able to stay in their country of origin

### **Health**

Our lives are still dominated by the Covid pandemic, and things will not be the same as they were 18 months ago.  
Help us all learn to live in a new Covid aware way,... in our homes and communities.  
Take away the fears about the side effects of vaccines that will protect so many people from the severity of this virus.

We are all aging day by day, just as you planned it.  
Some of us have now discovered that with aging, comes change in our health and wellbeing.

Lord .. We pray for your comfort and peace as we adjust to these restrictions, and give thanks that there are so many people and organizations to help us with the specialist care and medicines we need

Let us think about the people we know in these circumstances

Silence...

We remember members of our church family, named in the bulletin.....

Betty  
Isabel  
Iris  
Gabrielle  
Chrysanthe

Pray for the person sitting next to you....  
Pause...

**Governance and action**

Father God, ... we pray for good leadership in this world

We pray for the leaders of countries whose influence can impact of so many

We pray for our Commonwealth . State, and Local government representatives

Lord,... guide these people in the ways of truth and ethical decision making, .....and not the political gamesmanship that is only self serving

**Personal commitment**

As a way of endorsing these thoughts and prayers, let us read / or recite the following prayer from Saint Francis of Assisi

**PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS**

*Lord make me an instrument of Your peace  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
 Where there is injury, pardon  
 Where there is doubt, faith  
 Where there is despair, hope  
 Where there is darkness, light  
 Where there is sadness, joy  
 O Divine Master, grant that I may  
 Not so much seek to be consoled, as to console  
 To be understood, as to understand  
 To be loved, as to love  
 For it's in giving that we receive  
 And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned  
 And it's in dying that we are born...  
 To eternal life  
 Amen*

Thank you Father for hearing these petitions,  
 We wait expectantly for your replies as you deem fit for each of us

In the name of our Saviour .....Jesus Christ

Let us close by saying the prayer that Jesus taught us

**Our Father in Heaven  
 Hallowed be your Name  
 Your Kingdom come  
 Your will be done on Earth , as in Heaven  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 Forgive us our sins  
 As we forgive those who sin against us  
 Save us in the time of trial  
 And deliver us from evil  
 For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours  
 Now and forever  
 Amen**

## **Benediction**

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,

Remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.

May the Gum tree, for 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, reminds us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars, reminds us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus, reminds us of community.

So with grace, mercy and peace, go in truth, justice, love and hope.

*By Booke Prentis*

## **Dismissal**

Go out into the world in the power of the Spirit

In all things, at all times, remember that Christ is with you

Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God.

Amen.

**Closing song** "We are Australian" Dusty Feet Mob

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_TO6DXUyh8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_TO6DXUyh8)