

# Morialta UC Worship June 21 2020

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**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** God of hospitality and refuge, we gather here in our places of security and safety. Remind us that you are the God Almighty; large enough for all people, all nations, all tongues. Help us, with the presence of your Holy Spirit, to be able to create space for those who seek asylum and refuge.

O God, as we listen to the words of Psalm 46 we are mindful of your focus for all human kind, for you are the God of our refuge and strength, a very help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change. God you are present, you are with us and for all. Help us to be still and know that you are God Amen!

## **Acknowledgement of Land and refugees**

We acknowledge the Kuarna people, the first inhabitants of this place. We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today. We also recognise the many who have come to this land to find safety and protection. May we live together in harmony and peace as we share this land together.

**(light Christ candle)**

**Song: TIS 107 Sing praise and thanksgiving**

**Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living  
now worship their maker with gladness and song;**

**all glory and honour we come to him bringing:**

**O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

**Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;  
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,  
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:**

**O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

**Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,  
that unto your glory be all that we do;  
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:**

**O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

## **Prayers or praise and thanks**

Most wonderful God, our Parent and Friend,

we praise you for the riches of love that enable us to come together  
in this house of prayer to celebrate your goodness.

Please lead our truant minds away from petty concerns to larger commitments,  
away from tiredness or apathy towards a sense of awe and wonder,  
away from self obsession to the holy intoxication of your awesome beauty,  
humble power, and your unspeakable love.

We realise we never seem be able to thank, praise and enjoy you  
to the heights that we should,

but we do pray to be able give you the best worship that at this  
time is possible.

Through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen!*

## **Focus**

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God, who has freely given the Holy Spirit  
to bind us together as a community of grace.

We believe that the spirit can lead us in the discovery of truth,  
in the pursuit of justice, and in the practice of caring for one another.  
In our homes, in the church and in the community

the Spirit offers us inspiration and courage.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(compiled by, Alan Shepherd,. Permission given)

These words are fitting for today as we recognise Refugee week.

We are not alone, this is a place of welcome, we are not first peoples of this land, nearly all of us have come from another place. British fleet in 1770's, German refugees into SA 1800's, post war European immigrants, Vietnam, Sudan, Middle East and from the regions of Asia

Reconciliation week, refugee week, BLM. Let's talk about people – not statistics, unknown names or faces. Share stories, listen and look.

**Song: We are gathered** (Tune: Nettleton)

**We are gathered in the Spirit though our bodies are apart,  
Filled with joy and touched with wonder, separate hands but mingled  
hearts**

**Giving thanks and singing praises for the love that calls us on.  
From our many different places we are gathered into one.**

**We are gathered in our sorrow. We are gathered in our fear,  
In our pain and in our worry, in our anger and our tears.  
As we tend to one another with our gifts and with our care,  
Our community is strengthened through the faith and hope we share.**

**We are gathered in commitment to a planet that is whole.  
Works of justice, acts of kindness bless the world and heal our souls.  
As our voices join together, may our song of peace resound.  
May we offer in abundance all the grace that we have found.**  
(Amanda Udis-Kessler, c. 2020)

“**we continue in prayer** with our confessions, both private and communal  
crafted from Micah 6:8”

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good:  
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice?"*

We confess that we have not obeyed you,  
we have put our own desires above the needs of those seeking refuge.  
We confess we have ignored the rights of asylum seekers,  
even in the law of our own land, because of our fear and ignorance.

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good:  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to love kindness?"*

We confess we have not loved you,  
we have put our own desires before reaching out our hands to help others.  
We confess we have pushed away those needing legitimate refuge,  
clinging to our own comforts and discriminating against those different to  
us.

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good:  
and what does the Lord require of you but to walk humbly with your God?."*

We confess that we have misused your name,  
treating you like a registered trade mark, to be used to increase our power  
and influence.

We confess we have ignored the truth, focusing on politics and power  
over the suffering and hardship of those seeking refuge,  
because we are comfortable in our own importance.

**Song: Spirit of Peace**

**When people despair, we would bring hope  
In the shadow of fear, we would show faith  
When hatred divides, we would renew  
To people alone, we would bring love  
Spirit of love: Spirit send love  
Spirit of love: Spirit send love**

**When people are bound, we would make free  
In the darkness of doubt, we would affirm  
Where others escape, may we endure  
When people make war, we would bring peace  
Spirit of peace: Spirit send peace  
Spirit of peace: Spirit send peace**

**Readings**     [Genesis 21:8-21](#)  
                  [Psalm 86:1-10](#)  
                  [Matthew 10:24-39](#)

**Witness to the scriptures**

**Prayers for offering and others**

Gracious God, Bless the offerings and donations that have been given via Egive and Direct Debit or set aside to provide opportunities for ministry of care and love within our community and beyond. Send your Spirit on all who work to bring the good news of peace, reconciliation and love In the name of our Lord Jesus.

Our prayers for others today have a focus on the Beatitudes of Jesus and the Uniting Church Prayer for Refugee sunday

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the gentle,  
**for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right,  
**for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they will receive mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

**for they will see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they will be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you,  
**and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

God of Abraham. Sarah and Hagar, of Ishmael. God of travellers, migrants and refugees. Thank you for the beauty and uniqueness of this southern land which we share. Grant your protection and grace to all who shelter here. Forgive the racism and destruction that have been part of our history, and our disregard for the pain and oppression within the Australian community today.

Help us shed our provincial expectations. Take away our cultural tunnel vision. Open our hearts to be caring neighbours to each other. Direct our lives to just and peaceful action.

God of a thousand faces, help us also to acknowledge you are worshipped in many languages, in different songs and rhythms of life from our own May we respect these religious insights in each other and assist each faithful expression of you.

We pray for our Government and all decision makers,  
Guide them and guide us all.

We pray for unity for our nation and for your continuing presence among us. Lead your people, enable us to accept each other's' differences. Reshape us and as we celebrate the new life you bring.

We rejoice in you, God, in whose image we are brothers and sisters.

and by whose example in Jesus Christ we know the breadth and depth of your universal love.

Hear our prayer God of all nations and peoples. Amen

Mission Prayer Handbook 1991, *Uniting Church in Australia Assembly*, p. 7

### **Song TiS 607 Make me a channel**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;**

**where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;**

**and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**O Master, grant that I may never seek**

**so much to be consoled as to console,**

**to be understood as to understand,**

**to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;**

**where there is darkness, let me bring your light;**

**and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

### **Refrain**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**in giving of ourselves that we receive,**

**and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

### **Blessing: Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you

and keep you;

<sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup>the LORD turn his face toward you

and give you peace.”