**An Australian Eucharist**

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**Service Prepared by Rev. Glenn Loughrey 2021*Processional Hymn****:*

***Acknowledgement of Country:***

St Oswald’s acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the sovereign custodians of the land on which the church stands. St Oswald’s respectfully recognises Elders past, present and future.

***Acclamation:***

Blessed be God, the Great Creator Being.

**Blessed be God, the Breath of All, the Wisdom behind the Dreaming and the Way of Reconciliation and Healing.**

Let us pray.

**Creator God,**

**You who know our secrets and walk in our hearts:**

**Remove the rubbish and the unseen**

**By the wisdom of your Dreaming**

**So we can live on country in kinship with you**

**And make you known to all,**

**Through Christ our elder. Amen**

**Let us prayer for our land:**

Holy Father, God of Love,  
You are the Creator of all things.

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history  
and the sufferings of Our peoples,  
and we ask your forgiveness.  
We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures

Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus  
to reconcile the world to you.  
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,  
accept and love one another, as you love us  
and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history  
so that we may build a better future for our Nation.  
Teach us to respect all cultures.  
Teach us to care for our land and waters.

Help us to share justly the resources of this land.  
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change  
to improve the quality of life for all groups  
in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.  
Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit.

May your power and love be the foundations  
on which we build our families,  
our communities and our Nation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.[[1]](#footnote-1)

***In Praise of Country***

Being known

Lying on the plains,

Open,

Free,

Vulnerable;

Shivering with each touch of sun,

Each whisper of breeze,

Exploring places

Previously hidden,

Private,

Unknown,

Those covered by your own hands,

Embarrassed.

Yet you are warmed

In the awareness of being known

For the little you are,

Fragmented,

Whole,

Shimmering with life;

Blossoming

As wattle bursting into colour

Transitioning the seasons

From slumber

At the dawn of spring.

Being known,

Stands beckoning,

Midwife at the Easter tomb.[[2]](#footnote-2)

***Collect:***

**First Reading:**

**Psalm:**

**The Gospel:**

**Glory to you Jesus Christ**

Hear the Gospel of our God,

**Praise to you Jesus Christ.**

*Please sit*

***Sermon***

*Please stand*

***Prayers of the People***

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Silence

(SEE INTERCESSIONS ATTACHED)

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith

we may by your kindness receive,

through Jesus Christ our Elder. Amen.

***EXILE II***

*I tried to find my way back home,*

*there is no home;*

*I tried to find my way back,*

*there is no way back;*

*I tried to find my way,*

*there is no way;*

*I tried to find my,*

*there is no me;*

*I tried to find,*

*There is no thing to be found;*

*I tried,*

*I no longer try:*

*I;*

*I am in exile![[3]](#footnote-3)*

***Confession***

Jesus said: I came so that you may have life, and have it abundantly.

Let us acknowledge our selfishness with honesty and humility.

***silence***

Relying on God’s forgiveness, we pray:

**God of Holy Dreaming, we are comfortable in our self-interest and unaware of our rejection of others. Yet we are seeking welcome and inclusion, fearful of rejection, and struggling to find our own place. Search for us, welcome us, forgive us, and bring us home, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Elder. Amen.**

**Absolution:**

There is rejoicing in the Dreaming when the lost are found, and there is hope on country when creation turns to God in faith. Through Jesus our Christ, and brother your selfishness is forgiven. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

***The Greeting of Peace***

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the God be always with you.

And also with you.

***Offertory Hymn***

***Offertory Prayer***

**Generous God of Holy Dreaming.**

**Through your goodness we have these gifts of bread and wine to share.**

**Accept and use our offerings for your benefit**

**and for the fulfilment of your purposes.**

Wonderful be God for ever.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

God, you are with us.

**We are never alone.**

Our lives are open.

**We know you are here.**

And recognise you in all creation

**For this we are thankful.**

God of Holy Dreaming,

Thank you for country

For the joy of being here

and the possibilities of sharing in its wonders

with others of all species;

**For this**

**We thank you.**

We recognise your patience

Remaining ready to welcome us back

after we got lost in the bush;

We welcome your gift of Jesus,

your child, our elder,

Who lived for you so we too may.

**For this**

**We thank you.**

Knowing blood does not cleanse us,

We recognise his obedience to your tradition and language,

Which lead him to be unjustly crucified,

Opens the way for us to remain faithful to

Your way, the ways of our ancestors, your prophets.

**For this**

**We thank you.**

We dance each day

In celebration of his return from the world of the dead

to you and to us ;

celebrating in the new growth in people of all ages,

in the grass and trees,

the eagle and the trout

goanna eggs and kangaroo pouches.

And so, with people of every nation, tribe and language, and with the whole Church throughout the ages, we bring ourselves: all that we are, and all that we are not, joyfully giving thanks and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. [Blessed is he who comes in the name of tour God. Hosanna in the highest.]**

Glory to the God of Holy Dreaming, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor our ancestors searching that perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ and elder, whose life and death and resurrection shows us your complete nature and the possibilities for us.

We remember that, on the night before his death, Jesus, as he’d always done, gathered his mob for a common meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave some to each one, saying: “Take, eat: This is my body, my country, given for you and for all creation, take, eat and be restored.”

After supper he took a cup of wine, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my life given for you and for all creation, drink joyfully and be renewed.”

In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ’s spirit renews our lives.**

God of Holy Dreaming; may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in these symbols of bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth. This is our hope and shared desire, the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ, our elder.

  And now, in the spirit of Christ’s teaching, we pray:

***God of Holy Dreaming, honoured be your name.***

***Let your Way be known, your will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread,***

***and forgive us our self-centredness,***

***as we forgive those that act against us.***

***Save us in the time of trial,***

***and deliver us from evil.***

***For the Way, the power, and the glory***

***are yours forever and ever. Amen.***

Christ has died and lives for all. (Breaks the bread)

These are God’s gifts; take Jesus our Christ and elder, into your hearts.

This bread: the body of Christ. This wine: the life of Christ.

(Offers communion to all)

Here is the place heaven and earth meet; here is the “everywhere, then” of our dreaming.

**Communion of the People**

**Post Communion Thanksgiving**

God of Holy Dreaming, we thank you for this simple community meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts and brings us closer to you.

May our lives be lit up by your love, and may your love light up others through us.

**Amen.**

**Hymn:**

**The Blessing**

May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old.   
Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land.   
Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains  
followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.   
Let the light of God show us the right path  
and stand tall like the big river gums  
drawing life from the ever-flowing waters[[4]](#footnote-4)……

in the name of the God of Holy Dreaming, and of Jesus Christ our elder and of the Creator Spirit. Amen.

**Dismissal**

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

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**Intercessions[[5]](#footnote-5)**

1. God of all, ‘Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise’, we give thanks for this earth and the world in which we live. We give you thanks for the beauty of your continuing creation. Help us gracious God to be good stewards of your great gift. Help all to learn from First Peoples how to live on and in the lands and seas of this earth. May the people of this world continue to grow in sustainability so all can share the abundance, for the good of all, now, as well as for future generations. Help all those affected by rising seas, climate change, drought and wildfires. Help all those who are forced to leave their homes due to these calamities, to find somewhere safe to live.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of ‘everywhere, when’, we pray for those parts of our world afflicted by division, conflict and warfare. Help us to live in harmony with one another. Remind us that we are all created equal in your sight. We lift up to you places and victims of natural disaster. We remember our world afflicted by continuing waves of COVID19.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of all nations, we pray for Australia – this nation of a continent with many islands. We give thanks for the diversity of our peoples and the cultures within which we live. We pray for our country that Always Was, Always Will Be the home of our First Peoples who have cared for country for time immemorial. Help us all, Lord, to hear and learn the stories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors so that we may be richer in our souls. Help us to gather together as people of the red dirt, rich soil, salt and fresh water, mountains and plains, rural and urban, into one. We pray for all those who were here, those who came, and those who will come. Gather us all together, Lord, in the communion of your love. So, this NAIDOC week, we pray that mutual respect will increase, and the call for VOICE, TREATY and TRUTH will be heard within our nation and government.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of the (*local people*) people of the *(local group)* nations, and the people of *(local area)*, we pray for our local multicultural community, and our search for understanding of one another. Help us to listen to, respect and appreciate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples. We remember also the poor within our community, those who live on the streets, and those who face hunger.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of Remembrance, we pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and war. As we approach Remembrance Day, we pray for our First Nations people who carry the trauma of the Australian frontier wars and massacres, for service men and women – indigenous and non-indigenous, who have suffered or died in the violence of war. Each one of these people is remembered by and known by our loving God. May God bring them and their loved one’s peace.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. Generous God, you gave us Lord Jesus who by his death on the cross, offered us reconciliation with you. We pray for your Church and its work throughout the world. Especially we pray for *(name)* our Archbishop, *(name)* our Bishop and *(name)* our Priest. We give thanks for the work of our parish councilors/wardens. We pray for the work of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island ministers who spread the Good News.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of our past, grant us the ability to face up to the shameful and painful parts of Australia’s and the Church’s history, as readily as we celebrate the honorable and joyful. God of our present, grant us the compassion to hear the cries of those who continue to be wounded, the courage to repent, and the willingness for your Church and people to learn and change. God of the future, grant us the grace to follow your way of love, allowing us to accept and see that the cultures of this ancient land as enriching the soul of all Australians.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of the healing spirit help us. Allow us always to listen and hear the cries of those in need. Help us to heed the cries of those who need their cries to be heard and those who seek your way. Help those who are poor in body, mind and spirit. Help us Lord to pray for all who are sick, injured and those who live with disability and disease. We pray for all those who are pushed to the margins of society. We pray for those who suffer with mental illness. Especially, we pray for *(local names*), and those you have placed on our hearts…….. We pray for those throughout the world suffering from COVID 19. We give thanks, Lord, for the blessing of all those who live and work to care for other people and for indigenous leaders caring for the health of their communities.. We pray that your healing spirit may continue to move through them and that together we may all look to being free from the bonds of suffering.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. God of Compassion, may the souls of all who have gone before us in the struggle of life find their peace in you. May we with them and all those ancient ones look to the hope of the resurrection to come.

We remember the elders of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders countries and the elders of (local people) people who have passed on.

May we who receive the past, learn from it, and hand it on to the future so we can move just that little bit closer to true reconciliation.

B: God of all our dreaming **R: Hear our prayer**

1. *Wontulp-Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group, 13 March 1997, Brisbane* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Glenn Loughrey 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Glenn Loughrey 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. (Source: Uncle Vince Ross) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Based on intercessions for Sunday Nov 8th, 2020 – NAIDOC & Remembrance Day prepared by Norrene Hill [↑](#footnote-ref-5)