

NAIDOC 2024 Week Prayer Service



Many people believe that nature has been revealing God long before our Bible and Church came to be. Our land itself is a primary Bible. The world is a locus of the sacred and provides metaphors that the soul needs for its growth.

NAIDOC 2024 theme is
Keep The Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud.

People gather outside the Cathedral on the Southern side, (main doors).

Rev Canon Di Langham welcomes everyone from the stairs.

To the sounds of clapsticks everyone walks around the Cathedral to the Western Doors in an anticlockwise direction, led by the elders.

Smoking ceremony will be at the western doors as people enter the Cathedral. When everyone is inside a firestick will come from the smoking ceremony fire and light the fire at the front of the congregation. The altar will be lowered so that there is an open space with fire pit on centre floor.

Welcome To Country (Auntie Julie Perry) At the altar space.

We gather on land of Awabakal and Worimi peoples, traditional custodians of this land which was never ceded. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present today, and their ancestors, elders, and communities. We embrace the theme Keep the Fire Burning: Blak, loud and proud. Together we commit ourselves to the journey of reconciliation.

Welcome dance by Manning Valley Anglican College Aboriginal dancers with Todd Saunders.

Welcome to the Cathedral (Katherine? Or Bishop Peter?)

Hymn

- 1 When will it be that the sorrow will end?
When will the stranger be found as a friend?
When will the stories of grief be embraced,
told by the stolen, the lost, the displaced?

- 2 When will the languages flourish again,
cultures be treasured and pride shine through pain?
When will new hearts know that love has drawn near,
banishing deafness and blindness and fear?

3 When will it be that the wounds will be healed,
 new ways of walking together revealed?
 When will the land and its peoples be one,
 truth fully told and deep justice be done?

4. When will the First Peoples' voices be heard?
 When will each listening conscience be stirred?
 Christ in our midst, keep us turning to you
 and to each other, this long journey through.

5. Now, as the First Peoples' voices are heard,
 now, as each listener's conscience is stirred,
 Christ in our midst, keep us turning to you
 and to each other, this long journey through.

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Collect for NAIDOC week

Eternal God,
 you blessed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 with wisdom to live in this land and care for it:
 bless Australia's First Peoples again today
 with pride in their languages, stories and songs;
 and give grace to all of us
 to share culture, faith and hope together
 through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading

Matthew 5 1-12

Speaker: Auntie Louise Campbell-Price

Litany

In our sorrow as the First Peoples of this land,
On whose dispossession others' prosperity has been built, we pray:

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

In our grief for the our languages lost, cultures despised and families fragmented, we pray

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

We pray for solutions to the continuing indigenous disadvantage in health, education,
employment and housing, we pray;

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

In our yearning for true reconciliation and grace to walk together in a just future, we pray:

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

In our hunger for strength to make difficult changes of attitude and behaviour in our
communities, we pray

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

God of Holy Dreaming,

Bring all Australians together as one and the heal the wounds of our past. Keep our Fire
Burning and make us Blak, Loud and Proud.

Amen

Creator Spirit, God of Holy Dreaming,
from the dawn of creation you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.

You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In the vast desert and dense forest

and in cities at the water's edge,

Creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures

as the rock at the heart of our Land.

When Jesus hung on the tree

you heard the cries of all people
 And became one with the wounded ones:
 The convicts, the hunted, and the dispossessed.
 The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew,
 and bathed it in glorious hope.
 In Jesus we have been reconciled to you
 to each other and to your whole creation
 Lead us on, Great Spirit,
 as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
 Enable us to walk together in trust
 from the hurt and shame of the past
 Into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen
Written by Rev Canon Lenore Parker.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

I came from the dream-time
 From the dusty red-soil plains
 I am the ancient heart
 The keeper of the flame
 I stood upon the rocky shores
 I watched the tall ships come
 For forty thousand years I've been
 The first Australian

I came upon the prison ship
 Bowed down by iron chains
 I bought the land, endured the lash
 And waited for the rains
 I'm a settler, I'm a farmer's wife
 On a dry and barren run
 A convict, then a free man
 I became Australian

I'm the daughter of a digger
 Who sought the mother lode
 The girl became a woman
 On the long and dusty road
 I'm a child of the Depression
 I saw the good times come
 I'm a bushie, I'm a battler
 I am Australian

*We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice
"I am, you are, we are Australian"*

I'm a teller of stories,
I'm a singer of songs,
I am Albert Namatjira,
and I paint the ghostly gums,
I'm Clancy on his horse,
I'm Ned Kelly on the run,
I'm the one who waltzed Matilda.
I am Australian.

I'm the hot wind from the desert
I'm the black soil of the plains
I'm the mountains and the valleys
I'm the drought and flooding rains
I am the rock, I am the sky
The rivers when they run
The spirit of this great land
I am Australian

*We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice
"I am, you are, we are Australian"*

*We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice
"I am, you are, we are Australian"
"I am, you are, we are Australian"*

Fire Blessing

May the fire be in our thoughts

Making them true, good and just. May it protect us from the evil one.

May the fire be in our eyes:

May it open our eyes and share what is good in life

We ask that the fire protect us from what is not rightfully ours.

May the fire be on our lips

So that we may speak the truth in kindness

May the fire be in our ears

We pray that we may hear with deep, deep listening so that we may hear the flow of water, and of all creation and the dreaming. May we be protected from gossip and from things that harm and break us.

With reverence and care; so that we may walk in the ways of goodness and truth and be protected from walking away from what is truth.

(Written by Burnum Burnum)

May the fire be in our arms and hands

So that we may be of service and build up love. May the fire protect us from all violence.

May the fire be in our whole being

In our legs and in our feet, enable us to walk the earth.

The grace of our brother and elder, our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our God of Holy Dreaming and the Creator Spirit, be with us and remain with us forever more. **Amen**



...And the leaves of the trees will be the healing of the nations (Rev 22.2b)

Supper (Soup and Damper at the back)