

Suggestions for a reflection or liturgy.

A Sacred Space – a table containing Indigenous fabric, clapsticks, earth, water, gum leaves, oil burner with eucalyptus or tea tree oil? etc – is positioned as appropriate. If you are able to have both indigenous flags, if not, coloured ribbons of red yellow black, blue green and white for the ritual.

- *In preparation for the ritual chairs are moved back a little so there is room for people to walk around the table as below.*
- People all over Australia are celebrating similar rituals using the same sign of commitment that we are about to use.
- The ritual is an action and throughout it I will invite you to move, to stand still, to move your arms. Do what you are able to do. If you don't feel able ... please feel free to stay in your seat.
- When I invite you to move I'll ask you to move in a clockwise direction around 'the creation' ... but that's as much order as is needed ... there's no need for a line ... just as a group and as is comfortable.
- When I invite you to use your arms just make a gesture similar to the one I do but in your own way. When my arms move ... you do the same if you like.

So let us be still and focus ... as we prepare to begin.

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Leader: In the face of great need we can feel powerless. Yet our individual difference is a strength in which lies the potential for a rich and diverse response to the call to make a commitment to our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

I invite people to begin your journey again ... walking around 'the creation' ... and as you walk ... listen for what might be your first step towards helping to make a commitment. You might identify that step from the words you hear spoken ... or it might be something you hear within ... walk and listen **Leader:** Let's imagine what steps we might consider as individuals and as a community:

Liturgy of Commitment

- Voice 1:** I could be put a plaque at my door and do what it asks of me ...
Before you take another step, remember the Indigenous people who first walked this land.
- Voice 2:** I could set out to increase my understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience through reading ... particularly about the original owners of the land on which I live ...
- Voice 1:** I could talk about my commitment to others ...
- Voice 2:** I could endeavour to be more open in my attitudes ...
- Voice 1:** I could refrain from judging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ...
- Voice 2:** I could challenge judgments and negative attitudes toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when I hear them ...
- Voice 1:** I could make an effort to notice and be-friend Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in my existing ministry, parish and friendship circles ...
- Voice 2:** I could ensure that any action I take emerges from a prior respectful listening to and dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ...
- Voice 1:** I could pray the Grace we will be given today ...
- Voice 2:** I could remember Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all my prayers ...
- Voice 1:** I could contact our Social Justice Committee if I felt able to give practical assistance in ways suggested by them
- Voice 2:** I could always acknowledge the original owners of land when we gather ...

PRAYER INVOCATION

Leader: Let us stand before our God with open arms and pray.

Pause

God of all Life and Peoples,
You created each one of us in your image,
breathing the breath of your Divine life into us,
uniting us as sisters and brothers.

In your wisdom
You strengthened our unity with difference:
of colour, race, culture, and creed;
of experience, understanding and insight;
of gifts and resources, feelings and attitudes ...
making all of us, at once rich and poor.

Out of boundless love for us,
Jesus came among us:
to walk in our shoes,
to be taken, blessed, broken and given,
that all of us and all creation
might become full and rich with abundance.

Pause and move arms into a blessing gesture

Holy, passionate, evocative Spirit of God,
Come upon us ...
lead us to walk in the shoes of our own poverty ...
that we might know how to walk with our indigenous sisters and
brothers,
working together for a justice that makes indigenous poverty
history.

Take us God ... bless us ... break us open ... and give us
that all your people might share life to the full.

Amen

Liturgy of Commitment

Reader 1: Reading from Micah 6: 6-8

Reader 2: What is good has been explained to you. This is what the Lord asks of you, only this:

To act justly,
To love tenderly
And to walk humbly with your God.

BLESSING

Leader: May the God of Justice bless us.

All: Amen

Leader: May the God of tender love bless us.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the God of humble presence bless us.

All: Amen.

MISSIONING

Leader: Let us leave this gathering to live what we proclaim: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Developed by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, 2006.

We are Called. David Haas.

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

**We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another;
To walk humbly with God!**

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love.