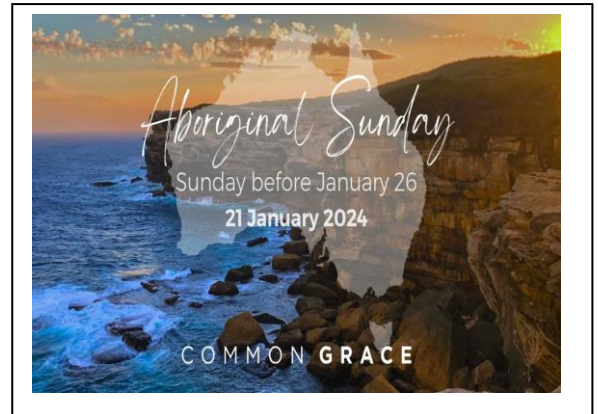


SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024 – ABORIGINAL SUNDAY.

Today we are joining with Common Grace and churches across denominations for Aboriginal Sunday, the Sunday before January 26th. Today



we will be led through these resources developed by Aboriginal Christian Leaders and Common Grace.

We acknowledge that today we are meeting on the lands of the Bunurong People. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and remember that Sovereignty has never been ceded and commit to walking softly and gently on this land.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here and watching Live Stream are advised that the following service contains images, names and quotes of people who have died.

Prayer of Reconciliation by Joshua Lane, Kanolu and Lardil Man. Our Father and Creator, we humbly come before You today acknowledging the weight of our shared history in Australia. We acknowledge that we are all made in Your image and called to live in harmony with one another. Yet, as a nation, we have fallen short of this calling and ask for Your guidance and wisdom to enable us to become agents of change in the pursuit of reconciliation with one another.

We pray for the courage to speak up for the marginalised and oppressed and to be a voice for the generations that have suffered under the weight of racism and discrimination. May Your love and grace inspire us to act towards healing and

reconciliation and to work towards a future where all are treated with dignity and respect.

Help us to listen to the voices of those who have been silenced for too long and to work together to see restoration and healing. May we be guided by Your love and grace and may our actions reflect Your goodness. May Your Holy Spirit guide us towards a future where love, mercy, and compassion reign. We pray for Your hand to be upon us as we work towards reconciliation, and we entrust our efforts into Your hands. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

First Song: “I’m Gonna Praise the Lord” by Uncle Nelson Varcoe. Uncle Nelson Varcoe is an Aboriginal Christian Leader, singer, songwriter, artist, pastor, and educator who grew up on Point Pearce Mission on Narrunga Country (Yorke Peninsula). He has been singing and composing since he was 12 years old. (see video file)

Scripture: Psalm 116: 1-19; Micah 6:8; Isaiah 61:11

Second Song Marion St is a sacred arts project by Mikali Anagnostis and Gabi Cadenhead, based on Gadigal Land Sydney. The project aims to create, record and resource new worship music, centring voices from the margins of the church. (see video on file)

Video: – Conversation with Dr Pastor Ray Minniecon. (14 mins)

Song: The Old Rugged Cross.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seVi9TKoylc>

Communion: Judi

Video - In Our Waiting prayer – Aunty Sue Hodges

Next steps – donation information for Common Grace.

Judi invites all prior to Morning Tea outside to plant our Seeds of hope.

They represent the start of something that grows into something vibrant and beautiful. Hold these little faith seeds tenderly in your hand.

Seeds cannot flourish without soil. We all bring gifts and special qualities giving nutrients to the soil of community, creating a garden full of life, healing, freedom and belonging.

The garden bed represents God's hands holding all life and all possibility together. Our faith seeds are cradled in God's love.

Water are our tears, but even as we cry, our faith seeds are watered and through our grief, we act for justice for all.

The sun lights up our path and the truth. Light reminds us of the goodness of truth-telling, uncovering things in the darkness to help our faith seeds to grow.

There will be a passing of time before we see our seeds sprout through the surface. The period of waiting means we are putting our hope and faith into something we cannot yet see.

We ask the Creator of all things to breathe life into our seed. We believe that God will make righteousness and justice spring up like a garden.

Benediction – written by Adan Gowen, Wurundjeri Aboriginal Christian Leader. Read by Judi

Sunrise: a new day to be present – may we know Your goodness and light.

Rain: the softening of soil, ready for growth – may we be ready for new life.

Wind: bringing new things; sending away that which is no longer for us – may we breathe in healing and exhale our pain.

Silence: a stillness to enter into – may we truly still ourselves to hear.

Stars: a canopy of beauty – may we take our true bearings and align ourselves to the way.

Moon: steadily moving, cyclic – may we know Your guidance and steady hand.

Ngawa (yes, amen)