



Resources for use during

A Service of Worship

Prayers of the People

God of love and justice,
Of wholeness and reconciliation,
You call us to share in Christ's ministry –
Praying and acting such
That your reign may blossom.

We pray for those in Parliament:
That you may guide our elected representatives
To act in the interests of all the people of this land,
And work towards a reconciled Australia.
Lord, in your mercy

We pray for wholeness and reconciliation

We pray for our Church:
That through the Covenant with
the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress
We may continue what has begun
and stand together to see it through.
Lord, in your mercy

We pray for wholeness and reconciliation

We pray for ourselves, all the people of Australia:
You taught us to love our neighbour.
Help us to see in each other
Your righteousness, your justice, your love,
And humbly seek to reflect the same
Lord, in your mercy

We pray for wholeness and reconciliation

We pray for Reconciliation:
That the wrongs of the past may be recognized,
That our awareness of the journey so far be awakened,
And that the Spirit move us
To see through what has been started.

Lord, in your mercy

We pray for wholeness and reconciliation

Hymns and Songs from 'Together in Song'

TiS 687 – God gives us a future

TiS 672 – Lord of earth and all creation

TiS 657 – God of freedom, God of justice

TiS 650 – Brother, sister, let me serve you

TiS 653 – This is a day of new beginnings

TiS 638 – O Christ, the healer, we have come

TiS 442 – All praise to our redeeming Lord



Ideas you could incorporate into your service

Reflection – invite a member of Congress / Covenanting Group to preach

Hold a covenant renewal time during your liturgy – refer to *Building Partnerships: A Guide to covenant renewal with Indigenous people throughout the Uniting Church in Australia* at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting/item/140-building-partnerships>

In 2012, the theme of Reconciliation Week is 'Let's Talk Recognition' – use this theme throughout your service, in the sermon and reflection for instance.

Welcome to country

Acknowledging the first peoples of Australia would be a great start to your service. It would be even better if you could invite one of the first peoples of Australia who is from the land on which you are meeting, to offer a formal welcome. Please note that this is a sensitive matter. We suggest that organisers use the following guidelines.

'Welcome' is when an Indigenous person from that land itself invites you to use the place, while thanking their ancestors for looking after the land.

'Acknowledgement' is when a non-Indigenous person or an Indigenous person who is not from that land, thanks the people of that land for looking after it. Where the name of the Traditional Custodians is known, it is specifically used. Where it is not known, a general Acknowledgement is given.

Here is a short example of a general acknowledgement:

Let us pay our respects to the traditional owners of this place we are standing on. Let us also acknowledge the graciousness of the first peoples of this land who have looked after this beautiful country for centuries and continue to do so.

Please also note that it is not appropriate to tell an Indigenous person what to say in either a Welcome or an Acknowledgement.