



All of this is us



#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer from the Assembly to mark our 40th Anniversary

WEEK THREE

Day 16 – Monday 29 May 2017 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Churches across Australia are taking part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 28 May – 4 June.

Today we join with our brothers and sisters in Christ in a prayer for unity. This is the 2017 prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an extra section for our ecumenical partners, thanks to Rev. Dr Chris Walker, National Consultant Christian Unity, Doctrine and Worship.

Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you for this week of prayer, for being together as Christians and for the different ways we have experienced your presence. Let us always praise your holy name together so that we may continue to grow in unity and reconciliation.

We pray for the ecumenical bodies with which the Uniting Church has connections: the World Council of Churches, the Global Christian Forum, the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the Pacific Conference of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Australia. We pray especially for the churches within Australia with which we have dialogues and relationships. May we work together with others to jointly serve your mission of reconciliation and renewal in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 17 – Tuesday 30 May 2017 – Prayer for Women

*Today we pray for women and their place in the life and mission of the Uniting Church.
This prayer was written by President-Elect Deidre Palmer.*

Gracious and loving God

We thank you for the many women who have shaped the Uniting Church and its mission.

We thank you for women in our families who have loved and nurtured us.

We thank you for women who have been our teachers in the faith, for those who have mentored us and invited us into life-giving relationship with you.

We thank you that from our beginning as a Uniting Church we have upheld the equality of women and men.

We thank you for those women who are prophets witnessing to your justice and peace in our Church, communities and wider society.

We thank you for those women who have overcome discrimination and resisted those who would silence them.

We pray for women who are leaders in our church and wider community. Grant them wisdom and strength.

We pray for women who live in situations of violence.

Strengthen our advocacy as a Church for safe havens and life-giving relationships for all people.

We pray for women of all ages whose ministries take many forms and whose places of ministry are in congregations, workplaces, homes, community centres, boardrooms and schools.

May their voices sing out your hope, joy and reconciling love into all the world.

Through Christ our Liberator we pray, Amen.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

Day 18 – Wednesday 31 May 2017 – A Destiny Together

As we continue to participate in A Destiny Together we share a prayer written by Rev Ronan Garrawurra, former UAICC National Chairperson.

The prayer is written in Yolŋu Matha with an English translation.

Go –Wañarr Bäpa,
Napurr ga buku-mirriyam nhokal Garray-walaŋawurr
Djesu-walaŋawurr ŋunhi ŋayi Christ Bungawa napirruŋ
Bukmakku yolŋuw ga balandaw.
Go Garray waŋgany manapul napurruny märr napurr
Dhu ga dhärra wundaŋarr
Yan Garraywal ga märr-nhirpanmirr Godkal
Bitjan bili ga bitjan bili Yo Yo. Garray marrkapmirr

God-Spiritual Being Father
We are praying to you through Lord Jesus
Who is the Christ or Boss for all peoples
Both First and Second Peoples.
Come Lord bind/join us together
So that we will stand strong
With the Lord and trusting in God
Forever and ever, Yes Yes. Dear Lord, beloved.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

Day 19 – Thursday 1 June 2017 – Prayer for Working Groups and Committees

Today we pray for the members of working groups and committees in the life of the Church. Today's prayer is offered by the Chair of the Multicultural and Cross Cultural Reference Committee, Rev Ki Soo Jang. The Prayer is written in Korean with an English translation.

사랑과 은혜가 많으신 하나님!

Our Gracious and loving father,

지난 40여년 동안 총회의 지나온 발자취를 돌아보며, 하나님께 영광을 돌려 드립니다. 하나님께서 함께하셔서 우리 총회가 어려운 여건과 힘든 상황 속에서도 많은 성장과 발전을 이루게 하시니 진심으로 감사드립니다. 모든 것이 주님의 은총이기에 감사와 영광을 드립니다. 이제 우리 총회가 더욱 발전하며 복음을 나누는 교회되게 하나님께 간절히 기도드립니다.

As we look back over the past 40 years of our Assembly, we are reminded again of how gracious you were to us. We thank you for guiding us through times of trial and suffering. We thank you for maturing us through moments of discipline. We thank you for teaching us that all things come from you for your glory. And so we pray to you, our Father, for your help in spreading the Gospel.

하나님! 우리 총회가 더욱 새로운 모습으로 변화되어야 하겠습니다. 총회가 진정으로 이 땅의 사람들을 위로하며 성령의 샘물이 될 수 있어야 하겠습니다. 이 세상 속에서 주님을 나타내며 희망이 되어야 하겠습니다. 우리에게 본을 보여주신 주님처럼 이 세상을 섬길 수 있도록 인도하여 주옵소서.

Father, we know we need to change and to continue growing as your children. So we ask for your Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the people of this land. Revive our hearts so that all may see the hope found in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to follow your example in coming down to us in the form of a servant.

특히 총회기구와 총회 위원회를 위해 기도합니다. 총회의 모든 구성원이 하나님 앞에서의 공동체임을 기억하며, 지역의 차이, 규모의 차이, 성별과 세대의 차이를 떠나 연대와 사랑으로 하나 되는 은총을 허락하여 주시옵소서.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

We pray that you would help us, especially Assembly and Committees, to keep our unity in the bond of peace under Christ. Help us to use the variety of gifts, ages and cultural backgrounds for the sake of your Gospel.

말씀위에 서 있으면서 행동하는 총회와 위원회, 열정이 있으면서도 사랑이 있는 총회와 위원회, 모임이 있으면서 가치와 의미가 있는 총회와 위원회, 기도하면서 은총을 나누는 총회와 위원회, 감사와 찬송(praise)이 있는 총회와 위원회가 되게 하여 주시옵소서. 그래서 총회와 위원회가 연약한 이들에겐 힘이 되게 하시고, 절망이 있는 이들에게 희망을 나누어주는 총회와 위원회가 되게 하여 주소서.

Help our Assembly and Committees to be a people who stand on your Word, to earnestly love one another, to honestly share with each other, to prayerfully depend on your grace and to continually praise and glorify your Name. Allow this Assembly and Committees to be the salt and light of the world and to be a city on a hill where the despised and marginalized may come for refuge and shelter.

총회와 위원회, 그리고 호주연합교회의 모든 식구들이 말씀이 있으면서 행동이 있는 총회, 교회의 제도와 구조안에서만 머물기 보다는 가족으로 서로 보고 나누는 총회, 감사가 있으면서 찬송이 있는 총회로 연약한 자들에겐 힘이 되게 하시고 실패한 자들에겐 희망이 되게 하사 살아있는 총회로 부흥하게 하소서.

Father also help us to be not just hearers of your Word but also doers. Help us to not just share knowledge but to share love. Help us to see each other not just as church structure but as Christian family. Help us to always rejoice, pray without ceasing, giving thanks to you in all circumstances. Use us to continue spreading the Gospel of your Son Jesus.

주 예수 그리스도의 이름으로 기도드립니다. 아멘.

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

Day 20 – Friday 2 June – A Destiny Together

We continue to pray for justice for First Peoples. This prayer is drawn from the Order of Service of the vigil held on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra on 18 March 2014. From remote communities in places like Arnhem Land and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands and from the centres of our big cities, people gathered to pray, pass the peace and share in Holy Communion.

Lord God,

We bless you for this wide, red land,
and for its life-giving waters,
acknowledging that you have been present in this place
from the very beginning of creation,
sustaining the people, the land and all living creatures.

In another place you called Abraham to be the father of a people
who would be a light to others,
and you called the women with the courage to care for your nation.
You called prophets to remind the people of your story:
of creation, of covenant, of liberation, of new community and law,
of other nations who served you, and of stories
gathered to be sacred scripture.

In the mystery of your time you entered into the life of the world in Jesus,
who healed, ate with sinners, welcomed outcasts, taught women,
shared water with foreigners, criticised politicians and church leaders,
fed the hungry,
and was obedient to death
so that we might see your reign.

You have called us to be the Church in this place,
to be a small glimpse of the life you intend for all.
We follow Jesus who stood for the poor, who created havoc in the temple,
who declared a jubilee time of equality and sharing of wealth.

Lord Jesus,
You have put your life in our hands,
Now we put our lives in yours.

Take us, Shake us, Remake us
in the image of Christ.

Enable us to live as a reconciling community, a people who love and follow Jesus.

Amen.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

Day 21 – Saturday 3 June 2017 – A Destiny Together

We continue in our prayer for A Destiny Together on Mabo Day, 3rd June. Today we remember Eddie Koiki Mabo and his campaign for indigenous land rights which overturned the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' and changed the way Australia recognised the rights of First Peoples.

This prayer is from the Mission Prayer Handbook written by former National Director of Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry Rev. Dr Tony Floyd.

Pilgrim God, you create and renew human communities.
You shape us into a new people with an undreamt future in this ancient land.
You lead us on new pathways and in new directions not yet seen.

Help us to trust that it is you at work in our lives and that our journeys matter to you.
Give us the confidence to know that the cultures and wisdom we bring to this place
are valued in your sight and are gifts in which we can discern your wonder and your grace.

To your tender care and loving heart we entrust our children, our dreams, our visions
and ourselves. Walk with us as you walked with our ancestors before in other places
and other times.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

Day 22 – Sunday 4 June 2017 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Today on the feast of Pentecost, we share a prayer written by Uniting Church in Australia President Stuart McMillan. The prayer was written for the World Council of Churches Global Day of Prayer for Just Peace in the Holy Land. There will be a gathering of Christian leaders in Jerusalem tomorrow for a Pentecost prayer service dedicated to peace and justice in Israel and Palestine.

In this prayer, the words for God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in Djambarrpuyŋu, one of the First Nation Yolŋu languages from North East Arnhem Land.

Holy and loving God-Wajarr,
we make our petition in the words of Your Son:
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem how I long to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.
O Lord hear our cry today, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Gracious Jesus-Djesu, you prayed that we might be one,
and be brought to complete unity.
A unity which mirrors your one essence Triune God.
A unity where your Spirit-DhuyuBirrimbirr bestows a blessing – life forever more.

On this day we join together in one accord across the globe,
and celebrate the first outpouring of your Holy Spirit.
With one voice loving God we pray for a just peace,
where all people may live together in harmony,
and all your children free of fear.

We make our prayer in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017

We also continue our prayers for Christian Unity. This prayer comes from Emily Evans, Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) representative on WCC Central Committee. It is based on the Unity Statement from the WCC Assembly Busan, South Korea, 2013

O God of life, lead us to justice and peace.

Today, the whole creation, the world and its people, live in the tension between the profoundest hope and the deepest despair.

We give thanks for the diversity of human cultures, for the wonder of knowledge and learning, for the enthusiasm and vibrancy of many people, for communities being rebuilt and enemies reconciled, for people being healed, and populations fed.

We call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one Eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe.

On our ecumenical journey we have come to understand more about God's call to the Church to serve the unity of all creation. The vocation of the Church is to be: foretaste of new creation; prophetic sign to the whole world of the life God intends for all; and servant spreading the good news of God's Kingdom of justice, peace and love.

We affirm the uniqueness of our fellowship and our conviction to pursue the visible unity of the Church together, thankful for our diversity and conscious of our need to grow in communion.

In whom we are one Body, your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, is worthy to be praised, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#40PRAYERS

40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017