

National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)  
10<sup>th</sup> National Forum, Canberra 2019

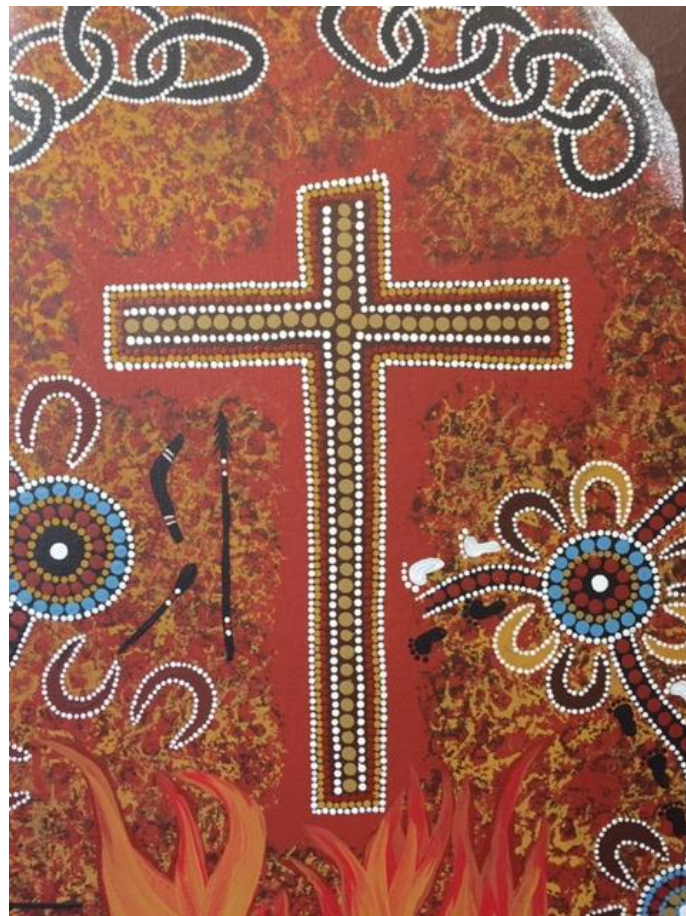
## **Ecumenical Worship Service**

### **Order of Service**

Sunday 23 June 2019

6:00pm

***Celebrating the Australian Churches Covenanting Together***



Wesley Uniting Church, Cnr. National Circuit & Fitzroy Street, Forrest

*Front cover design from "Invasion"  
by artist John "Munnari" Hammond A'Hang ©  
Presented to the NCCA by Aboriginal and Islander  
Participants at the NCCA Inaugural Forum, Canberra 14 July 1994*

*Please stand*

## **OPENNING HYMN**

**188** Where Wide Sky Rolls Down

## **WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, whom God has placed as the original custodians of this place on which we meet. We acknowledge the wisdom of their Elders, both past and present and honour their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you**

L: Happy are those who thirst for the living God.

**All: God refreshes their souls.**

L: Happy are those who hear the words of the Lord and act on them.

**All: God's word is their foundation.**

L: Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord.

**All: God's way is just and merciful.**

L: Happy are those who gather in love and unity.

**All: God blesses them with life forevermore.**

L: Let us, therefore, praise and worship God!

**All: Glory to you, O God, glory to you.**

L: O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth,  
present in all places and filling all things;  
Treasury of good things, and Giver of life,  
come and dwell in us and cleanse us from our every stain,  
and save us, O gracious Lord.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever  
and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

## **HYMNS**

**474** Gather us in

and

**753** You are holy, you are whole

*Please be seated*

## **WELCOME TO THE NCCA ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION** (L: Leader, W: Women and M: Men)

L: Glory to you, Almighty God!  
You spoke, and light came out of darkness,  
Order rose from confusion

W: You breathed into the dust of the earth,  
And we were formed in your image.

M: You looked on the work of your hands,  
And declared that it was all good.

**All: Are you still speak, breath and look for us  
We praise you!**

L: Glory to you, Jesus Christ!  
You meet us as a refugee, a threatened child,  
The world made flesh, born in a forgotten place.

W: You called us, by name, to leave what was comfortable,  
To be your disciples, companions and friends.

M: You saved us by kneeling at our feet  
Stretching your arms wide to take away our sins,  
Walking through death to life again

**All: And still you meet, call and save us.  
We praise you.**

L: Glory to you, Holy Spirit  
You brooded over chaos,  
Mothering and shaping God's new creation

W: You inspired prophets and evangelists  
To discover the right word for the right season,

M: You liberated the early church for mission  
Claiming all of life for the Lord of all

**All: And still you brood over, inspire and liberate us.  
We praise you**

**Glory to you, God. Three-in-one!**

**You surrounded by the song of the saints in heaven and you are present with  
us now. We adore you!**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Spirit of Joy,  
through you, Christ lives in us,  
and we in Christ.  
Forgive us when we forget you  
And when we fail to live in your joy  
Spirit of God, forgive us,  
And lead us to life in you

Spirit of love,  
You bring us to love to yourself  
And to those around us,  
In marriage, in family and in friendship.  
Forgive us when we hurt those we love  
And when we turn away from the love of our friends.  
Spirit of God, forgive us,  
And lead us to life in you

Spirit of the Body of Christ,  
Uniting us in the church  
With your life-giving face and hope.  
Forgive our fragmenting of your church  
And our failure to carry your love in to the world  
Spirit of God, forgive us,  
And lead us to life in you

Spirit in the world, comforting us, and drawing us into closer relationship with one another.  
Forgive our wars and our hatreds  
And forgive our failure to recognise you,  
Who lives in us all.  
Spirit of God, forgive us,  
And lead us to life in you

As the dove gently settles on the tree,  
Receive the gift of peace.  
As the flame rises free with light and warmth,  
Receive the gift of life.  
As the wind moves and dances around the earth, receive the gracious gift of the Spirit.

Amen.

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Our God, from whom nothing is hidden, who knows the motives of our hearts, forgives us our sins and declares to us the joyful truth that we are a forgiven and liberated people.

**Thanks be to God**

## **SIGN OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Let us offer those near each other the sign of peace.

*Please remain standing*

## **HYMN**

**158** God has Spoken by His Prophets

*Please be seated*

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

Make the pure light of your divine knowledge shine within our hearts, loving Master, and open the eyes of our mind to understand the message of your Gospel. Instil in us also the fear of your blessed commandments, so that having trampled down all the desires of the flesh, we may pursue a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to you. For you are the illumination of our souls and bodies, Christ our God, and to you we offer glory, with your eternal Father and your all-holy and life giving Son, now and ever and to the ages and ages, Amen

*Divine Liturgy of Our Father Among the Saints John Chrysostom*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

Isaiah 58:6-8

Acts 1:8, 4:31

Luke 16:13 *(Please stand for the gospel reading)*

**SERMON** - Metropolitan Geevarghese Coorilios

## **HYMN**

**665** Jesus Christ is Waiting

## **AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTING TOGETHER**

*President:* When the Covenanting document was signed either initially in 2002 or when churches joined the National Council of Churches in Australia our churches made a commitment to each other. I invite all to stand and join together in affirming that commitment.

*All:* As Member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia,

We RE-AFFIRM our commitment to one another as partners in the ecumenical journey;

We BELIEVE that we are being blessed in our generation to witness the action of the Spirit in drawing our Churches in a common search for a fuller expression of unity;

We REJOICE in all we have in common and GIVE THANKS for the richness of our diversity, though recognising that our disunity is a hindrance to the Church's mission

We RECOGNISE ONE ANOTHER as Communities of Faith, Hope and love, committed to following Christ and pledged to serve God's kingdom

We therefore MAKE A COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER to engage in an ongoing process of growing together (covenanting), not knowing what visible form unity, which is God's will and gift, may take, but believing that, by taking the steps to which we now commit ourselves, we shall be led to grow ever more deeply into that unity.

### ***THE FUTURE PLEDGE***

We PLEDGE ourselves to continue to discuss and articulate within our Churches the meaning and significance of our involvement in the quest for more visible unity and the possibilities for further engagement in ecumenical partnership.

To explore such further steps as will be necessary to make more clearly visible the unity of all Christian people in this country.

## **PRAYER CELEBRATING THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES COVENANTING TOGETHER**

*Please be seated*

### **OFFERING**

*(Collected for the ongoing work of the National Council of Churches in Australia)*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(as used at the NCCA Service of Inauguration 1994)*

Great Creator,  
Into our hands you have placed your creation, awesome in its beauty.  
We commit our lives to its care.  
Into our minds you have set your desire for unity as shown in Christ.  
We offer our lives to work for reconciliation.  
Into our hearts you have poured your love, which embraces all people  
Now we give ourselves to you. Amen

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation.  
Send the wind and flame  
Of your transforming life  
To lift up the church in this day.  
Give wisdom and faith  
That we may know  
The great hope to which we are called.

Come Holy Spirit, Renew the whole creation.  
Giver of life,  
Sustain your creation.  
Confront us with  
Our greed of consuming of your gifts.  
Stand before us  
As we pillage and destroy  
Call us forth into new harmonies of care for all that lives and breathes  
And has its being  
Come Holy Spirit  
Renew the whole creation.

Spirit of truth.  
Set us free  
To emerge of the children of God.  
Open our ears  
That we may hear the weeping



of the world.  
Open our mouths  
That we may see your vision  
Of peace and justice.  
Make us alive with the courage and faith  
Of your prophetic truth  
Come Holy Spirit  
Renew the whole creation.

Spirit of unity,  
Reconcile your people.  
Give us the wisdom  
To hold to what we need  
To be your church.  
Give us the grace  
To lay down  
Those things that we can do without.  
Give us a vision of your breadth  
And length and height  
Which will challenge our  
Smallness of heart  
And bring humbly together  
Come Holy Spirit  
Renew the whole creation.

Holy Spirit  
Transform and sanctify us as we take up this task  
In your name  
Give us the gifts we need  
To be your church in Australia  
In spirit and in truth  
Come Holy Spirit  
Renew the whole creation

**PRAYER FOR THE NCCA 10<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL FORUM** (*Followed by the Lord's Prayer*)

*Please stand as we say together the Lord's Prayer in the language of our hearts.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*411 Filled with the Spirit's Power, with one accord*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,  
We praise you that you came to find the lost,  
to free the oppressed,  
to heal the sick and to convert the self-centred.  
Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breath in the life of the world  
And are poured out into our hearts.  
As we live in the Spirit, may we also walk in the Spirit.  
Grant us faith and courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus –  
Becoming pilgrims of justice and peace in our time.  
For the blessing of your people,  
The sustaining of the earth  
And the glory of your name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **BLESSING**

God of power,  
May the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
May the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
May the gifts of your Spirit  
Equip us to serve and worship you  
Now and always  
Amen

*Please be seated*

## **RECESSIONAL MUSIC**

**SUPPER** *Please come and share in fellowship with us in after the service*

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## THANK YOU

*Thank you to all of those who have been involved in the preparation and involvement of bringing together the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)'s Ecumenical Worship Service together.*

### **Special thanks to:**

Metropolitan Geevarghese Coorilos, special guest to the NCCA Forum;

Bishop Phillip Huggins, President, National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA);

Rev. Dr Sarah Agnew and Rev. Dr Ockert Meyer, Ministers, Wesley Uniting Church, Canberra;

Brendon Lukin, organ; Andrew Johnson, cello; and Rohan Heffernan, trumpet.

NCCA Member Churches and their representatives

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*National Council of Churches in Australia gathers together in pilgrimage those Churches and Christian communities which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and commit themselves*

*(i) to deepen their relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his Church, and*

*(ii) to work together toward the fulfilment of their mission of common witness, proclamation and service,*

*to the glory of One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

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***'Living and Walking in the Holy Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship'***

National Council of Churches in Australia 10<sup>th</sup> National Forum

21-24 June 2019

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton ACT



*NCCA Mantle*