

# OPENING PRAYER

Friday 21 June 2024

'Let us hold on unswervingly to the *hope*  
we profess, for he who promised is faithful.'

HEBREWS 10:23



National Council of  
Churches in Australia

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(for 7 readers)

## Call to worship

**R1:** Gather around,  
you are welcome here,  
and you will hear Good News.

In a world where there are so many  
discouraging and negative voices  
It is the God of encouragement  
who will speak to you today.

The God of Jesus Christ.  
So come in, relax,  
let your tiredness roll away.  
Lift up your hearts, and listen.

written by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community <http://stillpointsa.org.au/>  
(inspired by Romans 15: 4-13)

## Invitation to pray

**R1:** Let us pray for Faith:  
That it will be the fruit of right hearing.  
That at all times there will be people  
with an open mind and open ears  
who will listen sharply to your word  
and pay attention to the needs around them.  
We pray:

**All:** *Let us be such people*

Let us pray for Hope:  
That it will be the fruit of all living faith.  
That at all times there will be people  
growing towards the light,  
continuously filled with courage and never cease being hopeful.  
We pray:

**All:** *Let us be such people*

Let us pray for Love:  
That she is the fruit of a living faith and hope.  
That at all times there will be people  
never giving up being alarmed  
about the continuing existence of the earth:  
The care for animals and entire environment  
that lend assistance in friendship,  
that abolish loneliness,

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that help working out sorrow and grief,  
that show sympathy with joy.  
We pray to you, O Lord.  
Let us recognise one another  
in deeds of faith, hope and above all through love.  
We pray:

**ALL: *Let us be such people***

*Prayer for Faith, Hope & Love © Rev. Pieter Post, the Netherlands. Published in [WCC Pilgrim Prayer, pg41](#)*

**Taizé Chant:**

**O Lord hear my prayer (x3)**

*from the Taizé Community 1991 (TIS 741)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**R2:** Merciful God,  
You have called us to gather in this place;

**All: *we thank you***

You have called us to live together in unity;

**All: *we thank you***

You have guided us, The National Council of Churches in Australia,  
in walking together as a fellowship of churches for 30 years;

**All: *we thank you***

From a deep well of gratitude,

**All: *help us to proclaim you great and glorious deeds.***

In response to our sin and your salvation,

**All: *help us to live lives of service to you and to your creation.***

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit and rooted in Christ's love,

**All: *help us to make every effort to maintain the unity  
and to build up the body of Christ.***

May our worship today be a witness  
to the kind of unity that comes only  
through Christ, our Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All: *Amen***

## Prayers of Confession

**R3:** Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image,  
Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past.

**All:** *Open our ears to hear more*

You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.  
We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land,  
language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
peoples have experienced.

**All:** *Open our hearts to care more*

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved  
ones, through the separation of children from their families.

**All:** *We are sorry and ask Your forgiveness.*

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits.  
In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to  
create a future that is just and equitable.

**All:** *Lord, you are our hope.*

**All:** *Amen.*

*Based on Prayer for the Journey of Healing -2007  
© National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission*

## Words of Assurance (Psalm 27:13-14)

**R3:** I remain confident of this:

**All:** *We will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*

**R3:** Wait for the Lord;

**All:** *be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

## Bible reading

**R4:** Romans 15:4-13

## Gospel reading

**R5:** Mark 4:35-41

## Silent reflection

## Taizé Chant:

**Bless the Lord my Soul (x3)**

*from the Taizé Community 1978 (TIS 706)*

## Prayers of Intercession

R6: Jesus, we come to you,

All: ***Jesus, healer of every hurt, we come to you.***

Jesus, we come, knowing you,

All: ***and wanting you to be known.***

Jesus, we come to you,

All: ***bearer of our every burden,***

Jesus we come to you with many yokes,

All: ***asking that our burdens be lightened.***

Jesus we come to you,

All: ***Lord and true light, giver of life and breadth,***

Jesus, we come to you as your body,

All: ***fill us more so we reflect your glory.***

Jesus, we come to you,

All: ***bringing our whole selves to you,  
for without you, we cannot live.***

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R7: Jesus, we come to you,

All: ***bringing our families and our loved ones,  
our neighbours and the foreigners in our streets...***

We bring others who struggle against a rising tide,

All: ***accomplishing your will with limited strength.***

We bring those who have known you and forgotten you.

All: ***let the people of the book find life in your world again.***

We bring those who resist your Spirit,

All: ***who hinder and stir up hate.***

We bring good leaders and their helpers to you,

All: ***your servants in this place,***

the godly and growing,

All: ***Who walk humbly before your face.***

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R6: Jesus, we come to you,...

bringing those out of work and without a home,

All: ***the bankrupt, the destitute, the refugee,***

those scarred by war and maimed,

All: ***whose pasts and futures are lost.***

We bring them all to your, Lord Jesus,

All: ***healer of every hurt, bearer of every burden.***

None of us is whole,

All: ***you alone are complete.***

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**R7:** Jesus, we come to you,  
**All:** *bringing our rebellious nations to you...*  
with the endless animosities  
**All:** *and the blood-soaked soils,...*  
Lord Jesus, King of kings and Prince of peace,  
we come to you,  
**All:** *Make us your people again.*  
None is worthy,  
**All:** *in you alone has grace met truth.*

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**R6:** Give hope, O Lord, our God, to our families,  
our cities, our nation  
**All:** *Give hope and healing.*  
Give rest for restlessness,  
**All:** *and bestow on this place your perfect lasting peace.*  
in your name we pray  
**All:** *Amen*

*Adapted from a prayer by Naji Umran, Egypt, Published in WCC Pilgrim Prayer, pg9*

**R7:** Let us pray in the words our Lord taught us in the language of our heart

### The Lord's Prayer

**All:** *Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.*

### Closing

**R1:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Cor 13:13)

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