

NAIDOC Week

Youth Liturgy of the Word

The Power Of Our Voice; The Gift Of Our Silence



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Please Note:

Elements of this Liturgy of the Word may be integrated into a Eucharistic Liturgy or prayer ritual or adapted for Class Prayer.

There may be videos in our online video library relevant to this theme. To check availability please select the video menu on our homepage.

Preparation for Liturgy:

Before the commencement of the prayer ritual, the leader could begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, or, if an Indigenous elder is present, the prayer ritual could begin with a Welcome To Country.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags could be processed in to the sacred space with a candle, Book of the Gospels and processional cross/crucifix during the Entrance Hymn.

If appropriate, a didgeridoo or clap sticks could accompany the Entrance Hymn.

Welcome & Introduction:

Leader: Good morning/afternoon and welcome to this celebration of NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. NAIDOC is now the name set aside for a week which acknowledges, remembers and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and heritage.

Today as we listen to the scriptures, we pray for meek and humble hearts that give rise to new ideas, thoughts and ways of seeing our world, so that we may work for ongoing peace, harmony and reconciliation on this land of Australia we now call our home.

I invite you to stand as we join in singing our gathering hymn.

Gathering Hymn:

We Are Called (David Haas – As One Voice: Vol 2)

Gather Your People (Bob Hurd – As One Voice: Vol 1)

Our God Is Here (Chris Muglia – Spirit & Song)

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray:
Nurturing God,
You have loved each of us into being;
may your Spirit continue to be at work within each one of us.
As we celebrate NAIDOC Week,
transform our hearts
so that we may recognise the power of our voice and the gift of our silence.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Son
whose love we celebrate today.
We make this prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Rom 12:9-16

Responsorial Psalm: **To You, O Lord (Psalm 25)** (Curtis Stephan – Spirit & Song)

Gospel Reading: Lk 10:1-12

Breaking Open the Word:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.”

The theme for NAIDOC Week in 2019 is “Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let’s Work Together for a Shared Future”. As we unpack this theme, we can see that, for generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have longed for significant and lasting change where their voice can be heard. Lasting and effective agreement and reconciliation cannot be achieved until there is a shared, truthful understanding of the nature of our Australian story and history.

Today, each one of us is called to continue in bringing about Christ’s mission of peace and justice for all people, especially our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters. In our society that is wracked by brokenness and hurt in so many forms, we are challenged to bring the compassionate and merciful heart of Jesus to life as we humbly walk forward into the future. As messengers of the Good News, we pray that we may continue to make known the person of Jesus Christ in our actions, values and attitudes to all people.

We pray also in this time that we will have the humility to use words if needed, but more importantly to be silent in our work, allowing the voice of the marginalised and the oppressed to be heard as we seek a fair and just society for the Australia of today and tomorrow.

*A reflection hymn such as **Prayer for Peace** (David Haas – As One Voice: Vol 1) or **Holy Spirit, Come To Me** (Julie Hoy – Spirit & Song) could be used.*

Prayer of the Faithful:

Leader: Loving God, we now turn to you as we pray for our needs, and the needs of our world.

Reader: For an openness to dialogue which leads to mutual respect and dignity for all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who continue to suffer from injustice and oppression. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For greater, compassion, grace and equality within our society. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For new ways of thinking, speaking and seeing our world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of all people, hear the prayers that we have spoken aloud, and those that remain in the depths of our hearts. We make all of these prayers in faith and in love through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Final Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious and loving God,
as we pray for the needs of your people
we ask you to help us to love and serve one another
and so welcome your beloved Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader: May almighty God, author of creation and giver of life,
bless us as we go forth in reconciliation
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn:

Let There Be Peace on Earth (Jill & Sy Miller – As One Voice: Vol 1)

Who Will Speak (Marty Haugen – As One Voice: Vol 2)

With One Voice (Ricky Manalo – Spirit & Song)