



## Refugee Sunday

Refugee Week (20-26th June) is held annually to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

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## Creating Community with God

### Greeting

Cooee Warami mittigar

Come – you are welcome here

Anyong haseyo

Ni hao

### Acknowledgement of Country

We give thanks for the land on which we meet – this is God's land,  
given into the care of the Wallamattegal clans of the Darug-speaking peoples.  
We affirm the First Peoples, as beloved of God.  
We pay our respects to Elders past and present and pray for those who are yet to come.

### Lighting the candles

John 8:12

요한복음 8:12

约翰福音 8:12

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

후에 예수님은 사람들에게 다시 말씀하셨다. “나는 세상의 빛이다. 나를 따르는 사람은 어두움에 다니지 않고 생명의 빛을 받을 것이다.”

耶稣又对众人说：“我是世界的光，凡跟从我的，必不会走在黑暗里，必要得到生命的光。”

### *Gathering Hymn: TiS 448 Blest are the pure in heart*

- 1 Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.
- 2 The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell with us in lowliness,  
our pattern and our King;
- 3 Still to the lowly soul  
he will himself impart,  
and for his cradle and his throne  
chooses the pure in heart.
- 4 Lord, we your presence seek;  
this blessing now renew;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple fit for you.

John Keble 1792-1866 Used with permission CCLI 65422

### *Prayers of Approach and Confession*

Restless God, we know that you never rest in your love and concern for all of creation.  
We know that you ceaselessly search us out,  
calling us to be here together in prayer and song and word.  
We know that you do not rest until justice rains down on the earth  
and until mercy flows like a river.  
We are your people, your community, your family.  
Today we open ourselves to your restless Spirit,  
God of all creation we live in expectation of your work in our lives. Amen

Truth telling and truth giving God,  
we confess that very often we hide from truth.  
You call us to stand straight and tall in the sunlight,  
when we would prefer to crouch and stumble in the dark.  
You call us to open our eyes wide and to see your world  
as it truly is, in all its complexity and confusion,  
all its shades of good and bad,  
when we, all too often prefer black and white categories  
and simple explanations.  
We confess that we often know you are calling us  
in the big and small moments of our day  
and yet we live as if this were not true,  
as if you were not offering us abundant life in every moment.  
Forgive us God for preferring a quiet life to a full life,  
a half-truth to the full truth of your love for us and all creation. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

Friends of God, you are precious to God  
and God never tires of calling and inviting you into the full life God has in store for us all.  
Rejoice! You are called! Rejoice! You are loved!

(Source: Rev Paul Turley)

Our sins are forgiven.      **Thanks be to God!**

## Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ

*A Time for Everyone* – A Refugee's Journey <https://youtu.be/RgyqLIE9Ss>

*Song – Refugee* <https://youtu.be/DIIYOxURDQ0>      Common Hymnal, David Brymer

My Saviour was born a refugee  
Was hunted in his own country  
From heaven, an unplanned pregnancy  
Adopted by his own family

My Saviour, he did not save himself  
He suffered and brought the sick to health  
His kingdom, for those in poverty  
To know him, for those with eyes to see  
    God is not untouchable  
    Jesus bared his heart and soul  
    Our eyes have seen the invisible  
    Now God is one of us

My Saviour, he died a lonely death  
Forsaken at his final breath  
No one to sing at his funeral  
Did this life mean anything at all?  
    God is not untouchable...

Who could have thought? Who could imagine?  
This kind of love, God has blood  
Pouring out on a cross we made  
God has a face, God has a name...

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, God with us

Written by David Brymer, Latifah Alattas  
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## Sacred Stories

### 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as

unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return--I speak as to children--open wide your hearts also.

Psalm 9:9-20

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

**And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples.

**For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

Be gracious to me, O LORD. See what I suffer from those who hate me;

you are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death, so that I may recount all your praises, and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance.

**The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.**

The LORD has made himself known, he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgaiion. Selah

The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

**For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.**

Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail; let the nations be judged before you.

**Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know that they are only human. Selah**

For the stories that connect us to God's love and grace - **Thanks be to God!**

Silence Land – a poem by Mohammed Ali Maleki, 2017 while on Manus:

I have doubts about my sanity:  
not everyone can bear this much.  
They stole all my feelings;  
there's no wisdom left in my mind.  
I am just a walking dead man.  
I am just a walking dead man.  
I have yelled for help so many times –  
No one on this earth took my hand.  
Now I see many mad things and imagine  
how the world would look if it collapsed.  
Perhaps it would be good for everything to  
return to the past;  
for nothing to be seen on the earth or in the sky.  
It would feel so good to be a child  
again and go back to my mother's womb,  
for there to be no sign of me  
for never to have gone crazy in this place

.....  
I sound crazy speaking this way! It's the outcome of being detained for four years after seeking asylum on the sea. Mohammed Ali Maleki, 2017

*(This poem, abridged, by an Iranian asylum seeker in detention on Manus Island were read as part of a poetic performance called 'Through the Moon'. Sourced from 'Adelaide Voices', Sep-Nov 2017)*

**Message**

The bible passages for today, from the letter to the Corinthians and Psalm 9, both contrast hardship and suffering with the hope that comes with open hearts and faith in God. Like so much

of the bible, there is no pretence that life as God's people is simply lovely. Rather, the sacred texts give graphic details of conflict, violence and times of despair.

Imagine if we truly understand and live by the truth that no one wins until everyone wins. Imagine if we understand and were able to see a world where there is no "me", only "we", there is no "them", only "us". Imagine if we lived by the understanding there is no "their" children or "my" child, there is only "our" children.

A photojournalist was taking pictures of the destruction of the war in Syria when he heard a sniper's rifle. He turned and saw a child fall to the ground down the street. He rushed to her and she was being held by a man who said, "My child, my child, she's been shot. Please help!"

The photojournalist ran to get his car and helped the man and wounded child into the backseat. The man said, "My child's bleeding badly. Please hurry."

They hurried to the hospital. They rushed the child into emergency leaving the photojournalist and man pacing in the waiting room. After some time a doctor walked through the door with that look that says we did all we could but it was too late.

The man said to the photojournalist, "We must go and find this girl's father at once and tell him."

The photojournalist said, "Father? I thought you were her father. You said 'my child'?"

The man, with tears in his eyes, said, "THEY ARE ALL OUR CHILDREN."

Those are the tear-filled eyes that can heal and restore our broken world. Those are the eyes of Jesus, the eyes that understand and see they are all OUR children. It seems like a good week to be reminded of the truth that there is no "their" children. They are all our children.

*(Source: Steve Koski, Facebook post, 17th June)*

Syrian refugees and Italian Peace work...

Artworks from the Med

Remembering the Tampa – Lavinya's story

Advocacy and Love makes a Way ...

SA Synod resolution:

The Uniting Church in Australia responds  
to the grace proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who himself was a refugee.

We are called to work with all our hearts and minds  
to love God, who is revealed in Jesus Christ.  
We are called to express love and generosity of spirit  
to the world for whom Christ died,  
including the most marginalized people.  
We seek to love the neighbour who is different  
and welcome the stranger in our midst.

We implore civic leaders to reflect the deep values of Australians,  
shaped by different nations and cultures,  
who seek to live in a world characterized by peace and goodwill.

We therefore ask those leaders to embrace a spirit of compassion  
and concern for human dignity  
in their considerations with regards  
to Refugee and Asylum-seeker policy development.

***Affirmation The Immigrants' Creed [Jose Luis Casal]***

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,  
who was born away from his people and his home, who fled  
his country with his parents when his life was in danger.  
When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,  
the servant of a foreign power.  
Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death.  
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,  
not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.  
I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers.  
I believe that the communion of saints begins  
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.  
I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,  
and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.  
I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people  
in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.  
I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner  
but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen

## Empowering the Community's Spirit

### Offering and Announcements

#### Hymn 647 *Comfort, comfort all my people*

*Chorus: Comfort, comfort all my people with the comfort of my Word.  
Speak it tender to my people: all your sins are taken away.*

- 1 Though your tears be rivers running,  
though your tears be an ocean full,  
though you cry with the hurt of living: comfort, comfort.  
Every valley shall be lifted,  
every mountain shall be low,  
every rough place will be smoother: comfort, comfort. *Chorus*
- 2 Though your eyes see only darkness,  
though your eyes can see no light,  
though your eyes see pain and sorrow: comfort, comfort.  
Every night will have its morning,  
every pain will have an end,  
every burden will be lightened: comfort, comfort. *Chorus*
- 3 Though we build strong walls for prisons,  
Though we feast while others starve,  
Though we fill this world with weapons: comfort, comfort.  
Every prisoner will be rescued,  
Every hungry mouth be filled,  
Every gun will rust, forgotten: comfort, comfort. *Chorus*
- 4 Though we fracture God's creation,  
Though we stand so far apart,  
Though we fail to love each other: comfort, comfort.  
Every wall will crack and crumble,  
Every stranger will be a friend,  
Every one embrace another: comfort, comfort. *Chorus*

## *Prayers of the People –*

God, we know you call us to go with you to the other side.  
You call us to a world larger, more open and more loving than we can ever imagine.  
You call us to live in radical community with you and with each other.  
You call us to a bigger version of ourselves than we have the courage to live  
or the imagination to picture.  
You call us to be one great family of all humanity.  
Today we pray for all those in our community who do not know themselves called,  
who do not experience themselves as being worthy of being called by anyone for any  
reason.  
Today we pray for all of those who truly wonder if life can have a meaning and a purpose,  
those who are sure that if it does, it does not include them.  
We pray today for all who feel that they are on the outside looking in on community,  
those who can find no way and no reason to participate.  
We pray also for all of those who continue to be isolated and alone –  
those who are unable to join with us here, and those who *are* here,  
but feel lonely or unable to participate here with confidence.  
We pray for those who suffer with the demons of anxiety or sorrow or shame.  
Give us compassionate hearts and wisdom with how best to support.  
God we pray for a world of radical inclusion, a home for all.  
And we pray in the name of the great includer, Jesus. Amen.

*Based on a prayer by Rev Paul Turley*

### A RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

Loving God,  
We pray for the world's refugees,  
They have experienced trauma beyond our imagining.  
God of healing, **bring them healing.**  
They endure the most trying of circumstances.  
God of strength, **bring them strength.**  
They face an uncertain future.  
God of hope, **bring them hope.**

We pray for the countries from which refugees come,  
They are experiencing conflict.  
God of healing, **bring them healing.**  
Their people are torn apart by violence & other types of persecution.  
God of strength, **bring them strength.**  
They face a difficult future.  
God of hope, **bring them hope.**

We pray for refugees who have resettled in Australia.  
They have experienced great loss.  
God of healing, **bring them healing.**  
They are building new lives in a foreign land.  
God of strength, **bring them strength.**  
They are courageously carving out a future.  
God of hope, **bring them hope.**

We pray for asylum seekers living in Australia.  
They have experienced great loss.  
God of healing, **bring them healing.**  
They may never see their families again.  
God of strength, **bring them strength.**  
They have no certainty about their future.  
God of hope, **bring them hope.**

We pray for asylum seekers detained offshore.  
They are experiencing great pain  
God of healing, **bring them healing.**  
They live in harsh and difficult conditions  
God of strength, **bring them strength.**  
They are losing hope.  
God of hope, **bring them hope.**

We pray for our nation  
We have hardened our hearts against refugees  
God of healing, **bring us healing**  
We have grown weary of caring  
God of strength, **give us strength**  
We need to find a better way forward,  
God of hope, **bring us hope.**

### *Sending– TiS 473 Community of Christ*

- 1 Community of Christ,  
who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life  
for God alone:  
the God who wears your face,  
to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race  
and every song.
- 2 Community of Christ,  
look past the Church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry,  
and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed,  
the jobless in your street,  
and towel and water, that you wash  
your neighbour's feet.
- 3 Community of Christ,  
through whom the word must sound –  
cry out for justice and for peace  
the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war  
and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish  
into joy.
- 4 When menace melts away,  
so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace  
and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love  
and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one  
for evermore.

Shirley Erena Murray 1931 – Words © 1992 by Hope Publishing Co., USA.  
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Go in peace, acting in love, responding in mercy,  
speaking with conviction as a voice for the voiceless.  
Be blessed with the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God,  
created in the image of the one who breathes and sustains all life.  
May you share from the generosity of God's heart,  
those who would seek nothing more than safety, belonging and peace.  
May you see the image of God in the face of the refugee,  
may the stranger be called sister, brother and friend.

And may the Comm-Unity of God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
Bless you now and always – **AMEN**