St George's Anglican Church, Malvern

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 30 January 2022

Liturgical Commemoration of Australia Day



The Southern Cross -a sign for all in this land

A Reflection

Today, as every Sunday, on the final page of our Order of Service are these words:

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.

It is easy to notice these words (though easier still *not* to notice them) each week, and pass on without absorbing what they say and the implications they have. We can, perhaps, dismiss such 'acknowledgements of country' as a piece of 'virtue signalling' (as the phrase is – though I still can't quite fathom why 'signalling virtue' is something to be sneered at; acknowledging that practising virtue would be better than simply 'signalling' it!)

The final word of the acknowledgement of country printed above is 'reconciliation'. That is a word which is at the heart of the Christian gospel: week by week we meet to give thanks ('euxaristo') to God that, in Christ and by the power of the Spirit, we have been reconciled to God. At the end of each liturgy, we are bidden: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." A significant element to that bidding is to spread the gospel and peace of love and reconciliation. We 'spread' that message chiefly by what we do: how we show love to all created in God's image, acknowledging that, with us and by the action of God, all things are reconciled to God.

For Australians, for all who live in this land, a significant part of 'reconciliation' must be with those who originally inhabited this land – lived in it, as it now appears for at least 60,000 years – and who are representatives of the oldest and longest living culture in the world. I suggest that this is a crucial (the word is chosen deliberately) part of what it is to be a Christian in Australia. We are called to 'respect' those who have been here for millenia, acknowledge – and learn from – their spiritual relationship with this corner of God's creation, and work to be reconciled.

Our liturgy teaches us that 'reconciliation', though already achieved by God, is made present to us through repentance – a confession of what has been done wrong, and a request for forgiveness. Our nation, and each of us personally, must reflect that, while we may never, personally, have done wrong against any Indigenous Australians, our national structures and all that we treasure have been built, fundamentally, on what was taken. Of course, no one can deny the extraordinary achievements that have occurred in the years since the establishment of the British colonies, and the formation of the federation and Commonwealth of Australia. These should be celebrated, and we should give thanks for them. But we need also to remember at what cost they have come – to all involved.

That is why, personally, I still think January 26 is an appropriate day of national commemoration; while accepting that it is a day of pain for many of the peoples of this land, and that their feelings and views must be acknowledged if the day is to continue to be marked. At every Christian eucharist, we repent of all our sins, of all we have done wrong; we also rejoice in what has been done – the miracle of God's reconciling. The Cross of the night sky in this Great Southern Land marks this. Let us live its reconciling message: as individuals, as a church, as a nation.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We stand to sing the following hymn:

- I. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand, where sun turns to gold the grass of the land, let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell their joy in the One who made everything well.
- 2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm, where green things grow lush and oceans are warm, let every sea-creature and tropical bird exult in the light of the life-giving Word.
- 3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain, where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain, let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.
- 4. Now people of faith, come gather around with songs to be shared, for blessings abound! Australians, whatever your culture or race, come lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (1956–) Music: 'Hanover' melody prob. by William Croft (1678–1727)

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The President welcomes the congregation, then this formal welcome is read:

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation, traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet, whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land since men and women woke from the great dream.

We honour the abiding legacy of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation. Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We say together:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Bountiful God,

we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land:

- a land of despair and hope,
- a land of wealth and abundant harvests.
- a land of fire, drought and flood;

above all, we give thanks for those who nurtured this land for millenia beyond counting,

and those who came to find a home of peace and hope. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation and an end to all injustice; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah:

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,

to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Take wives and have sons and daughters;

take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage,

that they may bear sons and daughters;

multiply there, and do not decrease.

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile,

and pray to the LORD on its behalf,

for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:

Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,

for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name;

I did not send them, says the LORD.

For thus says the LORD:

Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29: 4–14

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 71: 1-4, 6-8



In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed; in your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

Response

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and stronghold. Deliver me, my God from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

Response

I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be of you always.

Response

I have become a portent to many; but you are my refuge and strength. Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long. Response

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the church in Thessalonica:

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil,

but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

I Thessalonians 5: 12-24

Hear the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have been made free indeed, through the gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him,

'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.

What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?" Jesus answered them,

'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever.

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:31-36

For the gospel of the Lord, praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Peter Hollingworth, AC, O.B.E. (Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 2001–2003; Australian of the Year, 1991)

Silence is kept

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Creed for Australia

We believe that this ancient land with its unique creatures is a precious gift from a loving God whose mercy is over all creation.

We believe in God's care for the people who treasured it through un-numbered generations; the One who grieves in their suffering and rejoices in every noble aspiration.

We believe in God's compassion for the patchwork of refugees who for over two hundred years have come to this continent looking for a place to call their home.

We believe in God's steadfast love for this nation and all its children; that God is creating a new people from many races, colours and gifts, to fulfil a high destiny.

We believe the best way forward is the way revealed by Christ of faith, hope and love, where no needy person is neglected and no bidding of the Spirit ignored.

source: Bruce D. Prewer

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; The Diocese of Calcutta (Church of North India); The Diocese of Rockhampton; Christ Church, Brunswick; Ivanhoe Grammar School.

For all in need

Matthew, Sam, Milroy, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Erica, Peter, Leon, Josh, Vincent, John, Margaret, Andrew, Joan, Thea, John, Brian, Lloyd, Jackie and Barry, John, George, Clive, Chris.

For the Faithful Departed

Those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Eric Angliss, Charlotte Bayley, Robin Francis Martin Brown, Constance Francis, Maxwell Glover, Frank Hansen, Peter Jackson, Caroline Leonard, Ethel Manning, Grace Martin, Mary Moline, Lyndsay Nettlefold, Garry O'Dell Armstrong, Valentine Price, Louise Willsmore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations, and in the Cross that fills the night skies of this Great Southern Land.

Silence is kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins of ignorance, prejudice and complacency in penitence and faith, confident of God's forgiveness:

Merciful God.

our maker and our judge,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do:

we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with an appropriate sign of God's peace.

We sing the following hymn, as the table is prepared:

- I. Here we adore you, hidden Saviour, Lord, who in your Sacrament are living Word; both flesh and spirit at your presence fail, yet here your Presence we devoutly hail.
- O blest memorial of our dying Lord, who living bread to all you here afford!
 O may our souls on you for ever feed, and you, O Christ, for ever precious be.
- 3. Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God, cleanse us, unclean, with your most cleansing blood; increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace which from your Presence flow.
- 4. O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see, may what we thirst for soon our portion be, to gaze on you, unveiled, and see your face, the vision of your glory and your grace.

Words: St Thomas Aquinas (1227–74) tr. James Woodford (1820 – 85), alt. Music: 'Adoro Te', plainsong melody, mode v

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set on the altar and the President offers this prayer:

Generous God of Holy Dreaming, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God for ever.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be yours now and always, Lord of every time and place, God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the dawn of creation your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land: you spoke and the gum tree grew. In the vast desert and dense forest and in cities at the waters' edge, creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

In the fullness of time you revealed your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

When Jesus hung upon the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed, the refugees. We give you thanks that in him you have revealed to us your presence

in the vastness of this land, your love in its fruitfulness, and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life. The sunrise of your Son colours the earth anew, and bathes it in glorious hope.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with people from every nation, country,
tribe and language,
and with the Church throughout the ages,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in obedience to our Saviour Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may be partakers of his body and blood, and be made one with him, with each other, and with all who set foot on this country, in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All are invited to receive the sacrament.

During Communion, the choir sings the following anthem:

I. King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers, Where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours.

Refrain:

There naught is heard but Paradise bird, Harp, dulcimer, lute, With cymbal, trump and tymbal, And the tender, soothing flute.

- 2. The Lily, white in blossom there, is Chastity: The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humanity. *Refrain*
- 3. The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience: The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience. *Refrain*
- 4. The Crown Imperial bloometh too in yonder place, 'Tis Charity, of stock divine, the flower of grace. *Refrain*
- 5. Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may claim The Star of Bethl'em-Jesus-bless'd be his Name! *Refrain*
- 6. Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete, Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim and neat. *Refrain*

Words: trad. Dutch (17th century), trans. G. R. Woodward *Music*: G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand and the President prays:

God of Holy Dreaming, we thank you for this simple community meal we share together on this day of mixed emotions; a meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts and brings us closer to you and closer to each other. May our lives be lit up by your love, and may your love light up others through us.

Father,

we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

- I. Almighty God, lift up our eyes; inspire us all with visions brave; from mountain heights' grey driven skies, to cities hemmed with sunlit wave, from bushlands green to desert plain, recall us to your truth again.
- 2. We do not seek the power, O Lord, to wing swift death with greater speed; but love, to be your love's reward, your love, to match our spirit's need grant this; but human wrath repeal, and all the troubled peoples heal.
- 3. Let not our land a tyrant know, nor shackled freedom give us shame; strongholds of selfishness o'erthrow: God, light in us your Spirit's flame now fire this nation's heart and will your mighty purpose to fulfil.

Words: William Courtenay Saunders Johnson (1907–87) alt. Music: 'Melita', John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)

THE BLESSING

Life is short;
we do not have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,
and the blessing of the One who made us and loves us
and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love,
this day and always
in the name of the God of Holy Dreaming,
and of Jesus Christ his Son, our elder, and of the Creator Spirit.

Amen.

National Anthem for Australia

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing:
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing:
Advance Australia Fair.

Go, walk gently on country, learning to love and serve our God. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Special thanks are offered to the instrumentalists who made possible some of the music in today's liturgy:

Claire (cello), Greta (flute), Allegra (saxophone), Soph (clarinet), Ross (trumpet) and Riley (horn).

We also thank ea and the choir and

And thanks to all those, ably led by Ewan Morgan, who set up for this morning's liturgy and for the lunch to follow.

We look forward to sharing time together over lunch under the trees in the garden.

Scripture Readings next week

Isaiah 6:1–13
I Corinthians 15:1–11

5TH AFTER EPIPHANY

Psalm 138 Luke 5:1–11

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	Morning Prayer in Chapel and by	Evening Prayer Zoom (details below)
Monday, 31 January	Psalm 72 Jeremiah 12:1–17 Philippians 1:1–11	Psalm 73 Genesis 18:22–19:11 Luke 2:1–7
Tuesday, I February	Psalm 74 Jeremiah 13:1–17 Philippians 1:12–20	Psalms 122, 123 Exodus 13:1–2, 11–16 Hebrews 10:1–10
Wednesday, 2 February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas	Psalm 8 I Samuel I:I-20 Galatians 4:I-7	Psalm 48 I Samuel 1:21–28 John 2:12–25
Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.	Malachi 3:1–4; Ps. 84;	Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40
Thursday, 3 February First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove	Psalm 78:16–38 Jeremiah 14:7–16 Philippians 2:1–11	Psalm 78: 39–70 Genesis 21:1–34 Luke 3:1–14
Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m.	Isaiah 61:8-11; Ps. 116:11-18;	Philippians 4:4–8; John 6:25–35
Friday, 4 February Anskar, Missionary Bishop in Sweden	Psalm 80 Jeremiah 14:17–15:9 Philippians 2:12–18	Psalm 81 Genesis 22:1–24 Luke 3:15–22
Saturday, 5 February	Psalms 82; 84 Jeremiah 15:10–21 Philippians 2:19–30	Psalms 85; 87 Genesis 18:1–22 Luke 3:23–38
Next Sunday, 6 February Fifth after Epiphany Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1952)	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist & Meditation

Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m., Monday - Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday - Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09

NOTICES

Next Sunday, February 6 marks the Platinum Anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. Both services will offer special thanksgiving to God for 70 years of dedicated duty and service by Her Majesty to all in the Commonwealth. There will be a special morning tea following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Sunday February 13 will see (or hear!) the long-delayed première of *Missa Gracia*, commissioned in honour of Ann Stewart, and the 150th anniversary of the parish.

Sunday February 20 will be Brenda's last Sunday with us. Please reserve this date now and ensure you are present as we farewell Brenda liturgically, and thank her for her contribution to the parish as a whole and to many individuals over the last two extraordinary years.

So much is owed by so many to so few...

We are all very grateful to the small team of servers, intercessors and readers (and to Geraldine who has been organizing their contributions through the rosters); to the flower arrangers (organized by Judy Mallinson), washers and ironers of linen, as well as to those who offer morning tea after 10 a.m. All of these people ensure there really is 'lay ministry' in our worship, or offer lay ministry in other ways that significantly contribute to our community life.

It has, however, become increasingly clear how very few are involved in this: meaning many are called upon over, and over again. This is a call, therefore, for additional volunteers to read, serve, intercede, arrange flowers, deal with linen or assist at morning tea or in the gardens. Please see the vicar or one of the wardens if you think this is a way in which you could contribute to the life of the community of Christ here at St George's.

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The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

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CHURCH OFFICE

Nisha O'Brien

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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If visiting the office, please observe all protocols relating to Covid 19, including signing in and sanitizing your hands.

WARDENS

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We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.