



NAIDOC Worship Resources

- **Bible readings**

PSALM 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters. – (NIV)

GENESIS 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. – (NIV)

PSALM 95:4-5

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. – (NIV)

- **Songs – Celebrating cultural inclusivity**

AT 180 A time for building bridges

AT 341 God Loves You (If you're black or if you're white)

AT 433 You were in this place

AT 426 Hand in Hand

AT 574 You are our Father (Aboriginal Lord's Prayer)

- **NAIDOC Prayers**

Lord, we acknowledge our responsibility to care for and bring healing to Country and our nation. Forgive us for the times when we have failed to do so. Increase our capacity this NAIDOC Week to humble ourselves and listen afresh to truly hear the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayer for the Journey of Healing

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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: Lord hear our prayer.

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. We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.

ALL: Lord hear our prayer.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families. We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness. Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and afflicted 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. Lord, you are our hope.

ALL: Amen.

NATSICC Prayer (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council)

Father, Our Creator
You created all things seen and unseen
Listen to my silent prayers as I stand here before you
As my weary eyes look back over distant horizons,
Back to those days where my people walked.
The footprints of my Grandfathers are imprinted on the earth,
And the images become real to me.
I see my Grandfathers standing tall and strong,
Warriors of long ago.
I hear them singing.
I see them dancing,
And my Spirit moves within me.
They told of the emus fighting,
And the kangaroos picking up the scent of our hunters.
The images fade away as I feel the hurt of my people.
I can hear the cries of my Grandmothers as they cry for their children.
Grandfather, you can see me as I stand here and feel this hurt.
Father Creator, is this the purpose of my being here.
Or is it your plan to reshape my people
To be once again the proud race it once was?
Let me walk with you and my Grandfathers
Towards the dawning of a proud and new nation.
I thank you for my Sacred Being.

Prayer Written by Non-Aboriginal Peoples

When we love our Aboriginal neighbour as our self

Prayer by Penny Kleemann

Creator God, Jesus, Eternal Spirit,
as we pray some of your words back to you,
help us to get them right...

The Spirit of God is brooding over the waters
The salt waters
The salt water tears of our God gush down
As He looks upon our nation.

For He wove a beautiful vision
But those of us who came later
Have ripped and torn the weave
And shredded holes in His design

God gave us instruction not to covet or kill or steal
To love our neighbour as our self
And not to take anything that belonged to our neighbour
Yet all this has been ignored.

'Justice is driven back
And right actions stand at a distance
Truth stumbles in the street
And honesty can't enter'

Yet God in His incredible grace
Works with us
And we work with Him
To right what is wrong

[contd]



We, the people of Jesus
Are the body of Jesus in this land
It is our eyes, that see the pain
It is our ears, that hear the cries
It is our voices, that speak up
It is our hands, that reach out in friendship
It is our feet that help defend sacred land
Australia, your progress has been small,
But our hopes and dreams are big
For we know God revels in the small
And we remember that through 12 people
Jesus changed the world
'From little things, big things grow'

When we love our Aboriginal neighbour as our self
Our brothers and sisters 'have hope
And injustice shuts its mouth'

When we love our Aboriginal neighbour as our self
We too feel the pain and grief and the hurt of the 26th of January
And we know that this is not a day for a party

When we love our Aboriginal neighbour as our self
No longer do we call each other stranger
Now, we call each other friend

Creator God, may we pray and live and work for the day
When our Aboriginal brothers and sisters
Are looked up to, not down to
When they will have peace at sunrise
And joy at sunset

That time can't come quick enough
That time is now
Be it so.

Benediction Prayer

By Francis Bodkin of the Bodkin-Andrews clan of the D'harawal Peoples

May you always see the beauty of the Earth.
May you always taste the sweetest fruit.
May you always hear the laughter of the People.
May you always feel the warmth of the Flame.
May you always smell the perfume of the flowers.
May your dreams always be happy ones.
May your friends always be with you when you have need.
May your stomach always be full.
May you never feel hurt.

Blessing by Uncle Vince Ross

May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old
Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land
Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains
Followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.
Let the light of God show us the right path and stand tall like the big
River gums drawing life from the ever-flowing waters.

