

NAIDOC Week 2019

Children's Prayer Ritual

Let's Work Together



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Please Note:

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

For visual aids that may be relevant to this resource, please visit the VIDEOS and/or IMAGES menus on www.liturgyritualprayer.com

Website Background & Information:

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/news/naidoc-2019-voice-treaty-truth-let%E2%80%99s-work-together-shared-future>

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/get-involved/2019-theme>

[https://www.naidoc.org.au/sites/default/files/files/NAIDOCHistoryTimeline\(1\).pdf](https://www.naidoc.org.au/sites/default/files/files/NAIDOCHistoryTimeline(1).pdf)

Procession:

Before the liturgy, have the two readers in the Response to the Word practise their lines carefully and confidently. In the entrance procession have students carry in the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islands and Australian flags along with the cross, large lit candles and the Word of God.

Child (preferably of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage) holds up a rain stick and turns it slowly 3-4 times.

Reader (preferably child of aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage): Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land...*insert name of local people*, and pay our respects to the elders both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Australia. We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation. (Pause)

Welcome & Introduction:

Leader: Welcome to our celebration of NAIDOC Week. This year our theme is *Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's Work Together for a Shared Future.* We celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made – and continue to make - to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation. We pray that we may continue to work together so that all people feel listened to, valued, respected and accepted.
Let us join in our gathering song.

Gathering Hymn: **Live in Harmony** (Andrew Chinn – Let You Light Shine) **OR**
Spirit Dream (Monica Brown – One People, One Land)

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.
Loving and gracious God, who created all people equal,
we thank you for indigenous people
who have given so much to our country and our culture.
We pray that we listen to their voice
as they speak of their desires, hopes and dreams for their lives and the life of
this nation.
May we all commit ourselves to seeking justice for all people
and show a willingness to find positive solutions that include all.
We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Reading: Luke 10: 25-37

Response to Readings:

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Any person of any colour is my neighbour.

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Any person from any country is my neighbour.

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Any person from any culture is my neighbour.

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Every person no matter what language they speak.

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Every person no matter their gender.

Reader 1: Who is my neighbour?

Reader 2: Every person, every person is my neighbour.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Leader: Let us turn to the person on our left and offer a sign of peace. *(Pause)*
Let us turn to the person on our right and offer a sign of peace.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Leader: We turn to you, O God, and ask the help of your Spirit as we try to make our world a better place.

Reader: We pray for all Australians ... may we all grow in respect, understanding and appreciation of the culture of the Indigenous peoples of this land and their contribution to our history. (pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the leaders of churches and governments in this country... that they may value and engage in meaningful conversations that promote justice and reconciliation for our indigenous brothers and sisters. (pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all Indigenous people ... that they maintain a strong spirit of commitment to their culture and be willing to celebrate and promote its uniqueness and distinctiveness. (pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our school and parish communities ... that we may genuinely and gladly respond to the call to build a strong partnership with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. (pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for true reconciliation and some genuine healing for both sides so that we can work together for a shared future. (pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, with hope and faith we ask you to accept the prayers we make to you.

All: Amen.

Final Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.
Gracious God,
we want all peoples to live justly and peacefully together in this land.
We thank you for our First Nations people
who have stood proudly and confidently,
wanting to promote their culture and history.
May we work together to embrace and celebrate all that is similar
and all that is different between us.
We ask this prayer through Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go forth with grateful hearts thanking God for the blessings we enjoy.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn:

That All May be One (Andrew Chinn – Let Your Light Shine) **OR**
Feel the Power (Michael Mangan – True Colours Shine)

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