



Frontier Services

Standing with people in the bush

ORDER OF SERVICE 2019

*Standing with people
in the bush*



Frontier Services is an agency
of Uniting Church in Australia

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

From river to ocean,
from campfire to hearth,

**May the First People who have cared
for this Land be blessed.**

From breath to song,
from step to dance,

**May those who follow Your Songlines
guide us on the journey of living
honourably in this place.**

From greeting to Amen,
from silence to chorus,

**May our worship join with the voices
of the First Peoples of this Land.**



Call to Worship

“Gracious Lord, you have promised to always be with us wherever we live and work, in times of drought and flooding rains, in times when we are gathered with those we love and in times when we are isolated and alone. Hear the praises we bring you as we gather to celebrate your presence within the congregations we are part of, at home and in the places where our Bush Chaplains and volunteers engage with the people of remote Australia.”

By Rev Paul Bartlett

Hymn

Together in Song 188: Where wide sky rolls down

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.

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.

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.

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 heart to the Giver of grace.



Prayer of Confession

In our travels to the remotest parts of this country we have encountered people's struggles and sorrows. The great divide between the city and the bush continues to grow - in poverty, health outcomes and access to vital services. Bush Chaplains and volunteers work side by side to lend a sympathetic ear and a helping hand, but we can do so much more for our Outback brothers and sisters. Let us pray for the wisdom to know when more needs to be done and for the strength to do it.



Choice of Readings

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Isaiah 41:10

Psalms 46:1-5

Isaiah 40:28-31

Sermon

Hymn

All the Sleepy

1. All the sleepy should have a place to sleep.
All the hungry should have a place to eat.
All the mourning should have a place to weep.
Does not every child of God deserve a home?

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*Make love happen by God's grace and by God's power
Let God move you on this day and in this hour.
New creations will then blossom like a flower,
for together we can be the hands of God,
for together we can be the hands of God.*

2. All who suffer should have a place to heal,
and compassion to ease the pain they feel.
Talk is easy, but who will make love real?
Does not every child of God deserve some peace?

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3. The forgotten should be remembered too.
Lonely people might need a friend or two.
Who would be there if it were me or you?
Does not every child of God deserve some care?

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Selected by Rev Lindsay Cullen, UCA Resourcing Unit

Prayers for Others

May the Creator Spirit continue to hover over this land of many contrasts, cultures and peoples.

May Christ walk alongside us as we move in His presence.

May the cool wind of the Spirit refresh, replenish and restore our souls.

And may the land speak to us in such a way that we may see, feel and hear God the Creator, God the Spirit and God the Son in the cool evening murmur of the breeze.

Praise be to God.

*Pastor Gary Ferguson
Bush Chaplain - Ceduna Remote Area*

Reflections from Rev Dr Ji Zhang

The ancient land of Australia is calling us. Whoever has travelled through the inland would have experienced the vast distance; roads stretch over the red earth and disappear into the horizon. Under the deep blue sky, gum trees grow along underground waterways that criss-cross the sparse land. In this hot and dry continent, storms occasionally come with huge force, and rain turns the desert into lakes. Countless seeds then spring from the ground and transform the red centre into a sea of green, covered with flowers.

The land is alive. We belong to this land.

In the Uniting Church history, Frontier Services is the pioneer bringing pastoral care and social services to people living in remote Australia, including Aboriginal communities. In 1912, the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) was the first mission to put down the roots of the Presbyterian Church into the soil of this continent. Rev John Flynn turned his lived experiences with the land into a mission resource. His vision of a 'Mantle of Safety' was about support services that enabled people to build sustainable communities despite the hardships of Outback life.

Today, Frontier Services continues this century long tradition. This is a ministry of pastoral presence and supportive care. The devotion of Bush Chaplains is measured by the distance they travel in tens of thousands of miles each year. Sometimes they turn up and walk alongside those who live in remote communities and mining sites. Other times they listen, and a chat over coffee becomes a relief to isolated people seeking connections. Volunteers with skills to help families are also brought to these remote communities, serving to help establish connections between people across great distances.

Frontier Services is the presence of the Uniting Church spanning 86% of the country. They personify God's hope. Regardless of the distance, those who live in remote areas can be cared for. In times in which people are going through great difficulties, times in which resilience alone is not enough; Frontier Services is an agency of hope, providing services to, and advocating for remote Australians.

The Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution tells that Creator God was already in the land, revealed by the Spirit to the First Peoples through law, custom and ceremony. And the same love and grace finally and fully revealed in Jesus, sustained the people and gave them insights into God's way. It is through the Preamble that we once again begin to articulate who we are as the Uniting Church since the union. Our relationship with the land is a pathway to know the Creator God; our national identity is shaped by our journey together as the First and Second Peoples.

There is a calling in this ancient land. In this land, we will experience the deep stillness of silence. The silence that calls us to empty ourselves and turn our attention to the spirit of creation. God is in the margins. By the spirit of creation, all things are connected. And we are connected to one another – even as we are kept apart by great distance. For Frontier Services, the joy and challenge of ministry is to embody this struggle, connect people in this land and bring with it an undeniable sense of belonging.

*Rev Dr Ji Zhang
Assembly Theologian-in-Residence*

Offering

Frontier Services is ever grateful for your prayers, but your generous gifts will support their Bush Chaplains as they continue to answer God's call and bring His light to those in remote Australia. They are still continuing the vision of Rev John Flynn and Rev Col AT Holden today.

Benediction

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

Our history

The Birth of Frontier Services

On 22 June 1977 the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia saw the complete coming together of the Australia Inland Mission, the Federal Methodist Inland Mission, and the Outback work of the Congregational Church into what has since become Frontier Services.

Our Founder, Rev John Flynn's vision of a 'Mantle of Safety' for Outback people continues to be implemented today through Frontier Services. It is still the welcome visitor, the friend, the counsellor and advocate for the people of remote Australia.





Frontier Services
Standing with people in the bush



Together, we are making a difference

We are walking alongside people living in remote Australia, including Aboriginal communities, mining sites and isolated properties spanning 86% of the country.

We are a national agency of the Uniting Church that grew out of the pioneering work that started in 1912 by the Rev John Flynn “Flynn of the Inland” – the man on the \$20 note.

We work tirelessly each day to:

- Raise funds to resource our Bush Chaplains, aiding in their delivery of Pastoral Care
- Build partnerships that help relieve the isolation of those living in remote communities
- Advocate for people of remote Australia, giving them a voice
- Provide drought relief and other forms of practical community support through our volunteer assistance program, Outback Links

Our work is made possible with your kind donations. We thank you for your prayers and generosity; we couldn't do the work we do without your help.

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