

## ORDER OF SERVICE 2023

*Encourage one another,  
build up each other*



*From 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



# Acknowledgement of First Peoples

*Artwork by Bush Chaplain Julia Lennon*





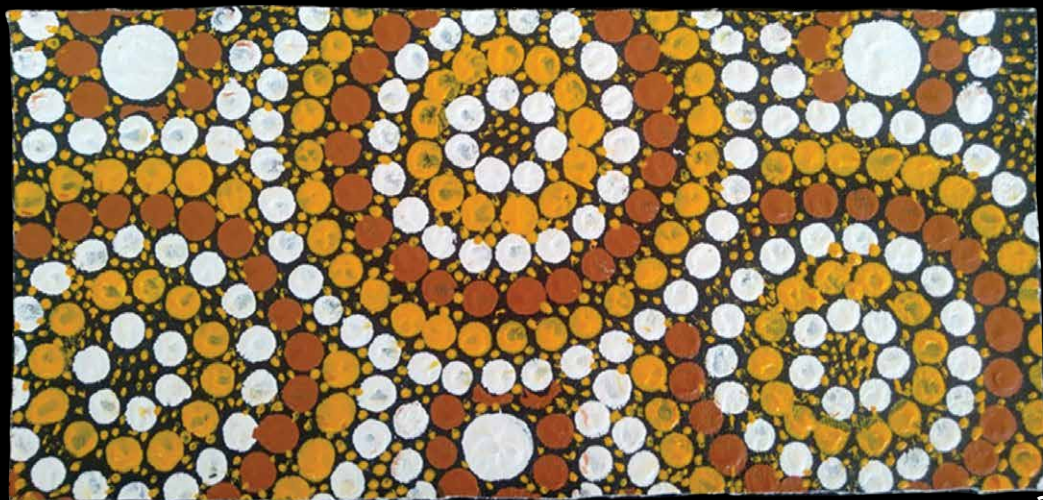


From before recorded time, the First Peoples of this Nation have cared for this Land.

We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have cared for it.

We acknowledge the Elders and community members who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.



# Call to Worship

Creator God,  
God of this wide-brown land, this land of sweeping plains,  
God of distant grey-blue mountains,  
God of ragged mountain ranges,  
God of droughts and flooding rains.  
God of oceans, reefs and beaches,  
God of bustling city streets,  
We gather this day to worship you.  
May we see you in the people we meet, may we hear your  
voice in the words that are shared.  
We commit this time, this space, and our lives to you this day.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus, who knows and loves us all.  
**Amen**



# Hymn

*Together in Song 111:*

## **Praise to the Lord – Joachim Neander**

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation.  
Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise Him in glad adoration.
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:  
have you not seen all you have needed has been  
sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend us;  
surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
as with His love He befriends us.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,  
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes  
confounding,  
sheds forth His light, scatters the horrors of night,  
saints with His mercy surrounding.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from his people again:  
gladly forever adore Him.



# Prayer of Confession

Great Creator God, we tend to think that we are far superior to the animal kingdom, yet at times we are much like it and sometimes far below it.

Sometimes we are like wombats hiding in dark burrows rather than like people living in the light.

Sometimes we are like a flock of galahs, squabbling, chattering and screeching so much that we don't ever hear the cries of the wounded or lost.

Sometimes we are like inquisitive emus, curious about the ways of Christ but quick to take fright and run.

Sometimes we are like bowerbirds, so busy collecting pretty possessions that we miss the greater wonders around us.

Loving Creator, generous Saviour, forgive both our inflated egos and our deflating behaviour. By the fierce love of Christ, rebuke, forgive, liberate and rearrange our lives.

Help us to walk in Christ's clear light, to recognise the needs of those around us, to put You first, and to treasure that costly love-light which is the very environment of heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen**

*(From Bruce D Prewer, 'Australian Prayers' p83)*

# Word of Forgiveness

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall  
run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.  
In Christ you are forgiven and renewed.

Thanks be to God.



# Bible Readings

## **Matthew 5: 1-9**

### **The Beatitudes**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."



## **Romans 12: 9-15**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

*Key verse: Romans 12:12*

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.*



# Hymn

## **For You, Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland**

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;  
For you, deep blue of the desert skies;  
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones; For  
you, sweet water from hidden springs, From the  
edges seek the heartlands,  
And when you're burnt by the journey,  
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit  
Soothe and replenish you,  
In the name of Christ, in the name of Christ.

*Robin Mann. Words: Julie Perrin*



# Prayers for Others

Our God, Creator and Sustainer of all life, we bring to you our prayers this day.

We pray for people facing the threat of natural disaster.

For those who have faced flooding rains, whose properties have been inundated or lives threatened,

For those who have faced drought, watching and waiting as rivers and dams run dry, as earth shrinks and cracks and stock stagger for lack of feed,

For those who have faced the threat of fires, in smoke-filled valleys, where blackened trees smoulder and broken people sift through charred possessions and consider whether to stay or leave.

For those who daily face the struggles of isolation, who work long hours, who long for companionship, who lay sleeplessly at night concerned for their future.

We pray for the Bush Chaplains and Outback Links volunteers, people like you and me, who turn up, offer a listening ear and a helping hand. Strengthen and encourage them in their service.

*(Prayers for the local community)*

God of grace, God of love, in all these situations we have named, and for those we name in our hearts, we pray that you bring wisdom and peace, bring life and hope, your protection and mercy.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

*Based on 'Prayer for those facing flooding', written by Rev Garry Hardingham, Presbytery Minister and Chair, Presbytery of North Queensland 2/2/2019; 'Prayers for those currently facing flooding, drought and fire' written by Rev Dr Stephen Robinson, Uniting Church National Disaster Recovery Officer*



# Reflection

*This reflection comes from Rev Erica Payne, who alongside Rev David Jackson, is a Bush Chaplain serving in the Midwest region of Western Australia in Disaster Recovery following the devastating impacts of Cyclone Seroja.*

Rev Erica writes:

At around 8:00PM local time on 11 April 2021, Cyclone Seroja made landfall on the western coastline of Western Australia. It was a Category 4 severe tropical cyclone, bringing heavy rain and wind gusts of up to 170 km/h. Many buildings had their roofs torn off, some homes and farm equipment and machinery were completely destroyed, and livestock and vegetation were lost.

As a result of Seroja, a large number of families have left their properties. This has disrupted the wider fabric of whole communities, as shops and schools face life with fewer people to support them.

Many buildings remain damaged and unliveable. Pastoral and spiritual care of the impacted communities is another area of unmet need.

Including Frontier Services Bush Chaplains, Rev David Jackson and I, there are currently only three Clergy visiting the Midwest communities to which we travel.



People's needs are often relatively simple. They need someone to stand alongside them as they work towards recovery. They need people willing to visit them and support them in their grief and loss. Trauma from the disaster, ongoing recovery challenges, mental health issues and loneliness all play a part. Professional services are in short supply, and many people remain concerned and fearful for the future.

David and I are attending community gatherings to meet people where they are and to offer our support. People of faith and those of no faith have welcomed us, respecting the role we are playing in the community.

One recurring theme in our work is with people who, for various reasons, did not have their homes insured. They have been grateful to have a Bush Chaplain alongside them as they make huge life decisions, be it plans to slowly rebuild and re-establish, or to sort out some of the other challenges in their situation.

My strongest memory is a visit with an older woman living alone on an isolated farm. Her house lost its roof and veranda in the cyclone. She also lost farm equipment and livestock. Unfortunately, she was under-insured. The woman has been living in a small corner of the house that wasn't so badly damaged. Power and water have only recently reconnected, over a year after the cyclone. She had little money and bills piling up.



When I visited I wasn't invited into the house as the woman assured me it was still "too much of a mess". Instead, we sat on the veranda, under a hastily repaired roof. I took some chocolate muffins and when I offered them the farmer burst into tears. We talked for one and a half hours and then prayed together. Many tears were shed. The farmer explained that no one had come to visit and just to sit and listen to her. On a later visit I was pleased to see that the woman was slowly moving forward in her life. There were many tears again and the woman held my hand very tightly as we closed in prayer. I know God is with her in this. God's grace is present amidst the chaos and destruction.

Erica writes: I am humbled by God's grace that is enabling me to reach out, connect and walk with people who are either recovering from the cyclone or grappling with trauma and pain and have had no one to accompany them, to sit with them and to listen.

# Offering

As Frontier Services continues to reach out and connect with people in the bush facing continued adversities, we deeply appreciate and acknowledge the ongoing support of congregations across Australia.

With your support, our Bush Chaplains continue to provide practical, pastoral, and spiritual care to rural and remote communities going through hardships. Your generosity enables us to send Outback Links volunteers to remote corners of Australia to offer practical assistance to those who need it.

Thank you for playing such an important part as we work together to support people in rural and remote Australia.

# Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face shine on you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn His face towards you  
and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**





# *Our history*

Frontier Services is an Australian charity and not-for-profit organisation founded in 1912 through the work of Reverend John Flynn. Our primary purpose is to support people in rural and remote Australia through our two core programs: Bush Chaplaincy and Outback Links. As an agency of the Uniting Church, we work in partnership with the Uniting Church Assembly across Australia, which enables us to provide chaplaincy, advocate for communities and mobilise volunteers and resources where they are needed most. These include Indigenous communities, isolated properties and farms, mining communities, and other remotely located areas. We are the friendly face who shows up and offers support when no one else does.

The only reason that we are able to go beyond the furthest fence to provide assistance to people in rural Australia is because of people like you.





**Frontier Services**  
Standing with people in the bush



## You can help bush communities today and into the future.

- ✓ Make a tax-deductible gift by calling us at 1300 787 247 or donating online at **[frontierservices.org/donate](https://frontierservices.org/donate)**
- ✓ Register to volunteer at **[frontierservices.org/outback-links](https://frontierservices.org/outback-links)** and to check out our current volunteering opportunities in areas of most need.
- ✓ Leave a lasting legacy by including a Gift in your Will to Frontier Services, visit **[frontierservices.org/bequest](https://frontierservices.org/bequest)**





**Frontier Services**  
Standing with people in the bush



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