

ORDER OF SERVICE 2025

*Standing with people
in the bush through the
storms of life*



Frontier Services
Standing with people in the bush





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all descendants of this/these nations who have cared for this place since creation. We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Artwork by Bush Chaplain Pastor Julia Lennon



Call to Worship

Psalm 96: 11-12

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad!

Let the sea thunder, and all it holds!

Let the countryside exalt and all that is in it

Let all the trees of the forest cry out for joy

Amen

Opening Hymn



Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God,
Creator of all things,
Creator of this vast and beautiful
country we call Australia.

***For rocky outcrops,
plains stretching out to the
horizon,
For the many different, intricate
creatures,
signs of your delight in creation,
We praise you, Lord.***

You have created humankind,
to live in harmony with the earth,
delighting in your creation,
working to grow, to harvest and to
distribute the food and resources
we need to survive.

***For life in community,
For the ability to share in the
produce of the earth,
we give you thanks and praise,
Lord God.
Amen***

Prayer of Confession

Lord, when we see the beauty and intricacy of your creation we acknowledge humanity's misuse and abuse.

We confess Lord that we have been careless and sometimes willful in our actions.

Forgive us Lord for our carelessness and disregard.

In this world, filled with creatures and ecosystems that are delicate and vulnerable,

Forgive us Lord for the times we have plundered and exploited.

In this world where water can seem so abundant and yet so precious to the survival of all life,

Forgive us Lord for our wasting and our polluting.

In this world where there is food and resources enough for all to live with dignity,

Forgive us Lord for our selfishness and greed.

In all we do, may we be people of compassion, caring for your creation, for each other and for all people across this country and across your world.

We bring these prayers to you in Jesus' name.

Amen

Pass the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please pass the peace to the people around you.

Hymn



Bible Readings

Leviticus 25: 3-5

Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.

Romans 8: 22-23

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.



Luke 8: 22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.

They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were terrified and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"



Reflection

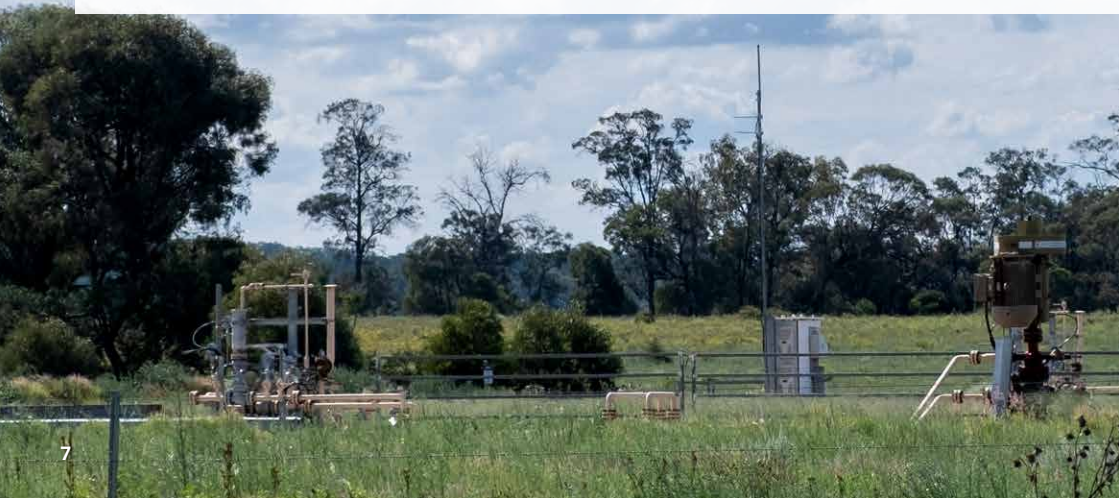
This reflection comes from Rev Dona Spencer who recently concluded her time as a Bush Chaplain serving in the Bottle Tree Remote Area, Queensland.

During my time as a Bush Chaplain, I have been deeply touched by the respect and understanding that the graziers and farmers have for the land. One grazier spoke of their relationship being not one of ownership but of guardianship. She was *“maintaining the property in order to hand it over to their sons future owners”*. I am deeply appreciative of their intimate knowledge of the local wildlife, and their fondness for little wallabies of various sizes and colours even though they could be a pest!

The Leviticus passage speaks of the ancient understanding of this need for rest and rejuvenation, and the awareness of the cyclical nature of land guardianship. I often hear about the plans that farmers have for rejuvenation, and for rest in order to protect the land from overuse.

Cycles of rest, planting, growth and harvesting are evident throughout the farming communities of Australia. So too are cycles of drought and flood, bushfires and regrowth. In Romans we read how together with all creation we wait, we groan, and hope to one day celebrate and rejoice.

This connectedness with people and the land is paramount to success and wholeness in the outback. There is a placard heading west on the Warrego highway which commands our attention with the words: “it’s



the people that matter". This is so true for those living in the outback. The small towns, whilst shrinking, are rich in community life where people come together to support when times are tough, and to grieve their losses, and to celebrate their successes.

As one grazier said "our community is a sense of place, but it is also our neighbours, people you can rely on in times of need. They are people with whom we can also genuinely celebrate life's good moments. It's about coming together. Whether it's bushfires, accidents, picking up a parcel in town or a chat about the weather".

The Luke 8 reading describes the disciples huddled in a boat in a storm. They cried out, together. Afterwards, they experienced the calm, together. Frontier Services has Bush Chaplains on the ground in remote areas so that they can 'stand with people in the bush' during the storms of life, and celebrate with them when the storms die down.

We are grateful that through all the seasons of life, God is with us. We share with them that they are not alone... God cares, and there are people out there who do also. Our Outback Links program is a practical expression of this love and care. As volunteers roll up their sleeves, have a yarn, and share meals, relationships are formed, spirits are lifted and hearts are encouraged.

And, good memories linger on long after the volunteers leave.



Offering

Lord God, we bring our offerings to you this day out of gratitude for your blessings to us and for all we have received. We pray that they might be used so that all people, especially those in remote corners of this country, may know your love, your comfort and your peace.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God,

We pray for our world, and in particular this day, we lift up to you the people who live across rural and remote parts of our country.

We pray for First Nations people across this land. May we all walk together, creating meaningful connections and a brighter road ahead.

Lord hear us,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for farmers and those living and working in rural and remote Australia. People working hard to provide the food and resources we need to sustain our lives. May God grant them comfort and rest through the challenges and hardships that they face. We pray particularly for people impacted by and recovering from the effects of severe weather events and natural disasters.

Lord hear us,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for children and families living in the bush. May they be sustained through the work of Frontier Services and other agencies so that they might feel a sense of connection and hope for their future.

Lord hear us,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for Frontier Services Bush Chaplains, that they might bring care and compassion to the most vulnerable and isolated people across this vast land.

We pray for Outback Links volunteers, that they might bring much needed friendship and practical support to our brothers and sisters in the bush.

Lord hear us,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for people and concerns
in our own community

*(Your congregation might pray for
other global and local concerns)*

Lord hear us,

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lord Jesus Christ, help us to follow

you, willing to help people in
need, wherever they are, in our
community and beyond.

Amen

Closing Hymn

Words of Mission and Sending out

Like the sun rises on coastland, mountain areas or inland,
May the warmth of your love fire up our hearts
That we may be and bear your blessing to all.

Blessing

Take heart. You do not travel through this world alone.

The timeless God travels with you in all you do, wherever you go,
through all your joys and sorrows.

Now may the love of God the Father,
the compassion of Jesus Christ the Son,
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

Be with you, now and always,

Amen

Our History

Frontier Services is an Australian charity 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 across Australia, which enables us to provide chaplaincy, advocate for communities, and mobilise volunteers and resources where they are needed most. These include First Nations 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 we are able to go beyond the furthest fence to provide assistance to people in rural Australia is because of people like you.

Thank you for joining us to stand with people in the bush.



Special thanks to Reverend Dona Spencer, Pastor Lindsay Ginn, and Pastor Julia Lennon for their contributions to this service.

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**
- ✓ Register to volunteer at **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**
- ✓ Subscribe to our quarterly news magazine featuring stories from the outback, visit **frontierservices.org/subscribe**

Scan the QR code to find out more



Suggested Hymns

Depending on your congregation's relevant CCLI license, you may like to:

- Choose one of the Frontier Services hymns from **frontierservices.org/order-of-service**
- Choose hymns or songs with which your community is familiar
- Choose one of a number of hymns found in Together in Song which reflect some of the beauty and uniqueness of Australia.

Suggested possible hymns include:

- TiS 134 - Praise my soul the king of heaven
- TiS 166 - Cosmic Praise (Sing a new song) – Richard Connolly
- TiS 188 - Where wide sky rolls down and touched red sand – Elizabeth J. Smith
- TiS 253 - O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr – Aboriginal People of Arnhem Land and D'Arcy Wood
- TiS 672 - Lord of earth and all creation – Michael Rayner Thwaites and Honor Mary Thwaites
- TiS 610 - God you touch the earth with Beauty
- TiS 613 - God of all hopefulness
- TiS 629 - When I needed a neighbour
- TiS 650 - Brother sister let me serve you
- TiS 668 - Touch the earth lightly
- TiS 670 - Jesus put this song into our hearts
- TiS 675 - Shine Jesus Shine

Roma reflection: The gateway to the outback

"The country with a beating heart. A land of undulating desert forms - always changing in the shimmering light from ferocious red, to sap green and gentle ochres.

An inland where one learns to wait - watching the sky, listening along with the leaves, the birds, and the animals. We contemplate the coming of the sun, feel its scorching heat, then watch it slowly ebb and withdraw, leaving shadows moving with the night.

With the eagle, we are called to roam across the sky, to travel with the breeze, breath deep and long. To watch and hear the silence. To see our neighbour. To experience deep life - one with each other and with the earth."

- Reflection and artwork by Bush Chaplain
Dona Spencer, Bottle Tree Remote Area





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