

**THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**  
**Working Group on Worship**

**Resources for the church's remembrance, prayer and peacemaking on the Sunday nearest to Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November**

These resources are provided at the request of the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly. They represent the collation of existing material from a number of different sources and also some new material. The Remembrance Service itself comes from *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* and has been adapted, with some additional material, to fit within the framework of the First Service for the Lord's Day from *Uniting in Worship 2*.

The liturgy, *Commitment to Uniting for Peace*, has been prepared by the Reverend Matthew Stuart, specifically to offer congregations the opportunity to engage with the vision and challenge of the resolution adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The full text of this resolution is attached as an appendix.

The lament and confession in the Service of Remembrance has been prepared by the Reverend Peter Gador-Whyte.

These resources can be further adapted to meet local requirements.

Our prayers must always be consistent with our theology. Care has been taken to ensure that the resources offered here reflect the faith and doctrine of the Uniting Church.

Additional resources have been provided, including suggested hymns, prayers, laments and a number of poems.

For those interested in developing their own worship services to commemorate Remembrance Day, especially services with a family focus that seek to actively involve children, reference is made to the *Barnabas in Churches* website. This website can be easily accessed and a wealth of material, including additional resources for Remembrance Day, can be found there.

Please note that these resources are not yet in their final form. The Working Group would appreciate feedback from anyone making use of the material and is happy to receive additional suggestions and/or contributions for its consideration.

**Rev Dr David Pitman**  
**Convenor**

# A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

## The Gathering of the People of God

*All gather in silence*

### Call to worship

*The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:*

God is our refuge and strength;  
a very present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from whence will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 121.1-2

This I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning.  
Lamentations 3.21-23

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.  
Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?  
Micah 6.8

**The presiding minister continues:**

We meet in the presence of God.  
Who calls us to share in  
Christ's ministry of reconciliation.  
In penitence and faith  
we commit ourselves to pray  
for God's kingdom to come

and work together with all people of good will  
toward that justice and peace  
between nations and peoples  
which is the hope of our calling.

We pray for all  
who in bereavement, disability and pain  
continue to suffer the consequences of  
fighting and terror.

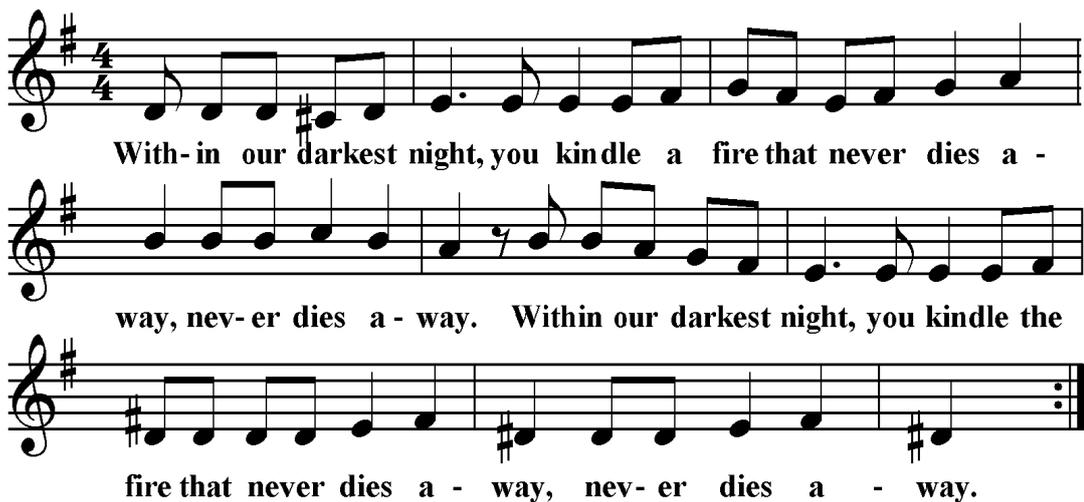
We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow  
those whose lives,  
in world wars and conflicts past and present,  
have been given and taken away.

**A hymn may be sung**

**Lament and Confession**

O Christ  
in pain and agony on the cross  
you bore the brunt of the world's violence  
you wore our insults scorched upon your back  
and in your haunting cry of desolation  
you utter our grief, our anguish, our loss.  
Hear the cry of your people

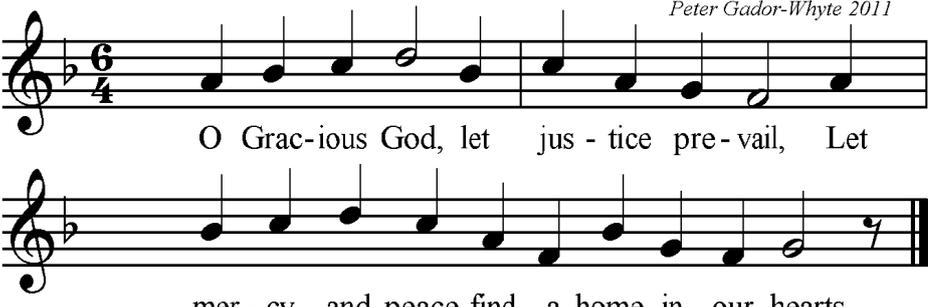
*Response One option is the Taize song 'Within our darkest night'*



With-in our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies a -  
way, nev-er dies a - way. Within our darkest night, you kindle the  
fire that never dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.

**OR**

*Peter Gador-Whyte 2011*



O Grac-ious God, let jus - tice pre - vail, Let  
mer - cy and peace find a home in our hearts.

**OR**

O God still the chatter, the twisted speech  
*Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope*

We hold before you:  
all the violence done in your name;  
Those maimed by war or scared by hatred  
Those traumatised by nightmares  
which years of peace cannot erase.  
Those crippled in spirit as well as in body  
those who cannot or will not forgive.

***Response***

We hold before you  
the tyrants of our age  
who wreak havoc with the minds and bodies of the young  
and force them to commit horrendous crimes.  
We hold before you  
a world broken by despair  
where false prophets voice not words of peace  
but chant a mantra of revenge

***Response***

We hold before you  
our own complicity with the evils of our age  
and pray for those who have not forgiven us

***Response***

Hear what comfortable words our saviour Christ says  
To all who truly turn to God:  
Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden,  
And I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.  
For I am gentle and lowly in heart,  
And you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

We wholeheartedly repent  
Of the evil we have done,  
And the evil done on our behalf;  
And we look for grace to offer forgiveness,  
And to know ourselves forgiven.

### **Declaration of forgiveness**

God was in Christ reconciling the world  
By his wounds we have been healed.  
Hear and live Christ's word of grace.  
Your sins are forgiven  
*Thanks be to God!*

### **The Peace**

(The peace should be shared at this point unless  
the Lord's Supper is being celebrated later in the service)

## **The Service of the Word**

The reader says:

Hear these words from the New Testament

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to  
you. I do not give to you as the world  
gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid.  
John 14:27

The wisdom from above is first pure, then  
peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of  
mercy and good fruits, without a trace of  
partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of  
righteousness is sown in peace for those  
who make peace.  
James 3:17-18

This is the message we have heard from  
him and proclaim to you, that God is light  
and in him there is no darkness at all.  
1 John 1:5

and/or the following is read responsively:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up  
the mountain, and after he sat down his  
disciples came to him. Then 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.**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

"Blessed are you when people revile you  
and persecute you  
**and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is  
great in heaven,  
**for in the same way they persecuted the prophets  
who were before you."**

Matthew 5:1-12

**The reader says:**

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**A hymn may be sung**

**The preaching of the Word**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**(An affirmation of faith such as the following may be used)**

We believe in God,  
creator of the world and of all people;  
and in Jesus Christ,  
incarnate among us, who died and rose again;  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**We believe.  
Lord, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:  
in the upholding of human dignity and community;

in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;  
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;  
in the abundance of God's gifts  
entrusted to us that all may have enough;  
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,  
by silence or action:  
through the violation of human dignity  
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;  
through the exploitation of people  
by greed and indifference;  
through the misuse of power  
in personal, communal, national, and international life;  
through the search for security  
by military and economic forces  
that threaten human existence:  
through the abuse of technology  
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community  
to the way of Christ;  
to take up the cross;  
to seek abundant life for all humanity;  
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;  
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,  
praying that God's kingdom may come.

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*(15<sup>th</sup> World Methodist Council, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986  
Uniting in Worship 1: People's Book: Page133)*

## **An act of remembrance and prayer**

**Prayer is led:**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of  
conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:  
for the servicemen and women who have  
died in the violence of war, each one

remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for those who love them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief and the  
sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for all members of the armed forces who  
are in danger this day, remembering  
family, friends and all who pray for their  
safe return;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for civilian women, children and men  
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,  
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who  
seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for all Defence Force chaplains offering support,  
encouragement, acceptance, compassion and understanding  
wherever and whenever it is needed;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for all who bear the burden and privilege  
of leadership, political, military and  
religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and  
resolve in the search for reconciliation and  
peace.

May God give peace

**God give peace**

O God of truth and justice,

we hold before you those whose memory  
we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never  
know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment  
of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray for those  
who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our  
faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**All join together in the Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**OR**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**An older person says:**

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.

**A younger person may reply:**

At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them.

All affirm:

**We will remember them.**

**Silence**

**The following prayer is said:**

Ever-living God  
we remember those whom you have gathered  
from the storm of war into the peace of

your presence;  
may that same peace calm our fears,  
bring justice to all peoples  
and establish harmony among the nations,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**A hymn may be sung**

**Those wishing to do so come forward to lay wreaths, light candles, or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses**

**An act of commitment is made:**

Let us commit ourselves to responsible  
living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**We will**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**We will**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**We will**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in  
us that have not yet been cast out by love:

May we accept the hope you have placed  
in the hearts of all people,  
And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.  
**Amen**

### **Offering**

### **Notices and concerns of the Church**

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

(If the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is being celebrated,  
it appropriately follows here)

The peace  
A hymn may be sung  
Setting of the table  
Great prayer of thanksgiving  
The breaking of the bread  
Lamb of God  
The communion  
Prayer after communion

### **The Sending Forth of the People of God**

Hymn  
Word of mission  
Blessing  
Dismissal

# A LITURGY OF COMMITMENT TO UNITING FOR PEACE

(See the Appendix, **Uniting for Peace**, for the full text of the Assembly Resolution)

## Notes

- The Uniting Church is a peacemaking church. The Church's vision is for a world where there is no need for military arms and weapons.
- We hope for a world where conflict is resolved through peaceful means and where people and nations live together in dignity and hope, respecting each other's cultural and religious traditions and relating to each other as loving neighbours whose future is shared. This hope is based in the understanding that God came in the crucified and risen Christ to make peace and that God calls all Christians to be peacemakers, to save life, to heal and love their neighbours. The Uniting Church believes that true justice and peace can only be achieved through means that do not consist of violence, nor perpetuate the cycle of violence. This order, *Commitment to Uniting for Peace*, can form part of the congregation's Sunday worship. It could appropriately be placed after the Preaching of the Word.

## OUTLINE OF COMMITMENT TO UNITING FOR PEACE

1. Affirmation for Peace
2. Scripture
3. Litany for World Peace
4. Commitment to Peace and Justice
5. An Affirmation of Faith

## Uniting for Peace

### 1. Affirmation for Peace

God loves all creation

and that all people are called to love each other.

**We affirm that God came in the crucified and risen Christ to make peace,  
and that God calls us to be peacemakers,**

**to save life, to heal and to love our neighbours;**

**We affirm that as the Church, we, are committed to be a peacemaking body.**

(Based upon the opening paragraph *Uniting for Peace: A Uniting Church Statement*, 10th Assembly July 2003)

### 2. Scripture

I lift up my eyes to the hills -  
from whence will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
(Psalm 121:1-2)

or

What does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to make humbly with your God?  
(Micah 6:8)

### **3. Litany for World Peace**

Remember, O Lord, the people's of the world,  
divided into many nations and tongues.  
Deliver us from every evil  
that gets in the way of your saving purpose;  
and fulfil the promise of peace to your people on earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **Silence**

From the curse of war  
and the human sin that causes war;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From pride that turns its back on you,  
and from unbelief that will not call you Lord;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From national vanity that poses as patriotism;  
from loud-mouthed boasting,  
and blind self-worship that admits not guilt;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From self-righteousness that will not compromise,  
and from selfishness that gains by the oppression of others;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From the lust of money or power  
that drives people to kill;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From trusting in the weapons of war,  
and mistrusting the councils of peace;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From hearing and believing propaganda,  
and speaking lies about other nations;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From groundless suspicions and fears  
that stand in the way of reconciliation;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

From words and deeds that encourage discord,  
prejudice, and hatred;  
from everything that prevents the human family  
from fulfilling your promise of peace;  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

God our Father:  
we pray for all your children on earth,  
of every nation and of every race;  
**that they may be strong to do your will.**

### Silence

We pray for the Church in all the world;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For the United Nations;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For the leaders of the nations,  
and for all politicians, ambassadors, and diplomats;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For international federations of labours,  
industry, and commerce;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For worldwide agencies of compassion  
which bind wounds and feed the hungry;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For the World Council of Churches and its agencies;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For all who, in any way,  
work to further the cause of peace and goodwill;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

For ordinary people in many lands who live in peace,  
and who long for peace for all people;  
**Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

Eternal God,  
Use us, despite our ignorance and weakness,  
to help bring about your holy will.  
Hasten the day when all people shall live together in your love;  
for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **4. Commitment to Peace and Justice**

**The congregation is invited to stand**

Let us join with all members, councils, agencies,  
congregations and groups of the Uniting Church  
to commit our lives and works to peace and justice.

**We commit to overcome violence:**  
**working with all our neighbours for peace, justice, and reconciliation;**  
**embracing, in the spirit of the gospel, approaches to building peace;**  
**empowering those who are oppressed by violence;**  
**joining with those struggling for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation;**  
**we will continually repent for our complicity in violence.**

**We commit to work for peace and security, remembering:**  
**true justice is only achieved through means that do not consist of violence;**  
**true security is only achieved through means that build trust, relationships of**  
**understanding and acceptance.**

(Bases upon *Uniting for Peace: A Uniting Church Statement*, 10th Assembly July 2003 - sections 1, 2, and 3.)

#### **5. An Affirmation of Faith**

**Congregation remains standing.**

We believe in God,  
creator of the world and of all people;  
and in Jesus Christ,  
incarnate among us, who died and rose again;  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**We believe.**  
**Lord, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:  
in the upholding of human dignity and community;

in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;  
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;  
in the abundance of God's gifts  
entrusted to us that all may have enough;  
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,  
by silence or action:  
through the violation of human dignity  
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;  
through the exploitation of people  
by greed and indifference;  
through the misuse of power  
in personal, communal, national, and international life;  
through the search for security  
by military and economic forces  
that threaten human existence:  
through the abuse of technology  
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ;  
to take up the cross;  
to seek abundant life for all humanity;  
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;  
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,  
praying that God's kingdom may come,

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

(15th World Methodist Council, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986. Uniting in Worship 1:  
People's Book, Page 133)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## 1. SUGGESTED HYMNS

### *Together in Song*

- 10 The Lord's my Shepherd
- 181 Come, O God of all the earth
- 282 The voice of God goes out to all the earth
- 286 Light one candle for hope
- 416 Great God, your Spirit like the wind
- 473 Community of Christ
- 586 Abide with me
- 607 Make me a channel of your peace
- 611 God of grace and God of glory
- 657 God of freedom, God of justice
- 668 Touch the earth lightly
- 682 When human voices cannot sing
- 683 God! When human bonds are broken

### *The Australian Hymn Book*

- 46 O God, our help in ages past

### *Seasons of the Spirit Songbook 3*

Like a Candle

### *Seasons of the Spirit Songbook 9*

The peace of the earth

### *Church Hymnary 4*

- 659 Put peace into each other's hands
- 712 What shall we pray for those who died?

### *David MacGregor*

<http://www.togethertocelbrate.com.au/songslyrics.htm>

On earth in our day

## 2. OTHER PRAYERS

### A Prayer for Defence Force Chaplains

We pray for those serving as Defence Force Chaplains:

That they will faithfully minister God's Word

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That the ministry they offer will mediate God's love and grace

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That they will be able to respond with acceptance, understanding and compassion to everyone with whom they minister

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That they will be a calm and encouraging presence in situations of crisis, turmoil and fear

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That when there seems to be no peace they will be an instrument of God's peace, the peace that passes all understanding

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That they will be able to find the support they need in order to sustain their own emotional and spiritual well-being

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

That their families will find comfort, encouragement and hope in the knowledge of God's love and care

Lord, hear us

**Lord, hear our prayer**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

## **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of eternity, Lord of the ages,  
we thank you that in times past,  
when darkness and evil enveloped the human family,  
ordinary men and women, from all parts of society,  
In many nations, responded to resist aggression,  
and to defend freedom.

We thank you for all who gave their lives  
In the service of their country,  
for all who suffered in battle,  
for all who were taken prisoner,  
for all wounded in body, mind and spirit.

We thank you for the contribution to this struggle  
made by men and women who stayed at home,  
working in factories, offices and on the land.  
Lord, for all who defended freedom, we thank you.

O God, deliver us from the prison of hatred against the enemy.  
Set us free from the powers of revenge.  
Liberate us from bitterness and anger.  
Help us to use the freedom defended  
and won in times past.

To God the Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we give praise, honour and glory,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

*(Worship Resources for Anzac and Remembrance Services:  
UCA Commission for Liturgy, 1995)*

## **A Prayer of Intercession**

Loving Father, who gives life for all,  
we entrust to your keeping those who have died  
in the service of this country.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer from the effects of war.  
Grant them your peace and healing strength.  
And for those who in sadness recall lives lost,  
grant them comfort in the hope of resurrection.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we be inspired by the determination  
of those who have served in the fight  
for freedom, justice and peace.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, have mercy on our broken and divided world.  
Give your Spirit of peace to all people  
and remove from them the spirit that makes for war,  
that all may live as members of your family.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Lord, we offer ourselves to you  
and ask that you will enable us  
to care for each other as you cared for the world.

**Lord, hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(Worship Resources for Anzac and Remembrance Services:  
UCA Commission for Liturgy, 1995)*

## **An instrument of God's peace**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
for your mercy and truth's sake.

O divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

*(A 19<sup>th</sup> century prayer in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi  
Uniting in Worship 1: People's Book: Page 228)*

## **Prayer for Refugees and Victims of War**

Lord God,  
no one is a stranger to you  
and no one is ever far from your loving care.  
In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,  
those separated from their loved ones,  
young people who are lost,  
and those who have left home or who have run away from  
home.  
Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be  
and help us always to show your kindness  
to strangers and to all in need  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**From *Catholic Online***

## **Saviour of the World**

Jesus, Saviour of the world,  
come to us in your mercy;  
**we look to you to save and help us.**

By your cross and your life laid down  
you set your people free;  
**we look to you to save and help us.**

When they were about to perish  
you saved your disciples;  
**we look to you to come to our help.**

In the greatness of your mercy,  
loose us from our chains;  
**forgive the sins of all your people.**

Make yourself known as our Saviour  
and mighty Deliverer;  
**save and help us that we may praise you.**

Come now and dwell with us,  
Lord Christ Jesus;  
**hear our prayer and be with us always.**

And when you come in your glory,  
**make us to be one with you  
and to share the life of your kingdom.**

*(Uniting In Worship 1: People's Book: Page 151)*

## **A Rolling Brown Land**

Lord God,  
your Spirit has moved over the face of Australia  
and formed from its dust a rolling brown land.  
Your Spirit has moved over its warm tropical waters  
and created a rich variety of life.  
Your Spirit has moved in the lives  
of men, women, and children  
and given them, from the dream time,  
an affinity with their lands and waters.  
Your Spirit has moved in pilgrim people  
and brought them to a place of freedom and plenty.  
Your Spirit moves still today  
in sprawling, high-rise cities,  
in the vast distances of the outback,  
and in the ethnic diversity of the Australian people.

Lord God,  
in the midst of this varied huddle of humanity  
you have set your church.  
Give us, the people you have so richly blessed,  
a commitment to justice and peace for all nations;  
and a vision of righteousness  
and equality for all people in our own country.  
Help us look beyond our far horizons  
to see our neighbours in their many guises,  
so that we may be mutually enriched by our differences.  
And may our love and compassion for all people on earth  
be as wide and varied as our land  
and as constant as the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(The Revd Douglas McKenzie  
Uniting in Worship 1: People's Book: Page 240)*

## **3. LAMENTS**

(The following Laments are from *Uniting in Worship 2*, pages 241-242)

## 1

Our hearts are like stone today –  
We have seen too much.  
Been too exposed,  
become too cynical,  
out compassioned,  
unmoved.

Our hearts are like stone today.  
**our hearts are like stone today.**

Can we see again?  
Become goodness finders  
and regain our compassion?

Take the staff  
and strike our hearts;  
**our hearts like stone.**

Bring living water flowing;  
**quench the thirst we have.**  
Thirst for justice;  
**thirst for your word;**  
thirst for your way.  
**Send water flowing from the stone.**

## 2

Surrounded by suffering:  
**we search for God.**

Questions are asked:  
**we search for answers.**

With feelings of despair:  
**we search for hope.**

With the longing of love:  
**we search for justice.**

## 3

Wars rage, destruction mounts:  
**where are you, Lord?**

The gap between rich and poor grows wider:  
**where are you, Lord?**

People suffer, struggle, there seems no end in sight:  
**where are you, Lord?**

Help us find you  
**in the words and actions of those who proclaim peace.**

Help us find you  
**in the faces and lives of the poor.**

Help us find you  
**and be ready to welcome you, whatever your disguise.**

And give us compassion  
that we might open our hearts to those in need;  
and in serving them, be served;  
**in loving them, find love  
and in knowing them, know you. Amen.**

## **4. POEMS**

### *In Flanders fields*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae (1872–1918)*

## *For the fallen*

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
(Australia) mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)*

## WONDER

Wonder...  
what depths of depravity  
fashioned  
these bright things for the destruction  
of human life  
shattering bone, tearing bodies  
to a mass of shattered flesh -  
golden agents of death.

Wonder...  
what agony of God  
purposed  
the horror of wood and nails  
for the human one  
shattering bone, tearing the body  
in a mass of shattered flesh -  
true Son of God.

Wonder...  
what child-like innocence  
gathered  
these bright things and imagined  
that out of this malevolence  
a cross could rise  
shining sign of healing for  
wounded humanity.

*Rev Dr Rod Horsfield, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2008*

## **Jesus Mate** *by Peter Woodward 1991*

Jesus Mate, you're fair dinkum:  
to the soft you're soft,  
to the tough you're tough;  
or is it the other way round  
so that you comfort us when life is hard  
and you confront us when we're comfortable and complacent?  
Your word brings healing to my soul:  
but it opens and exposes the hidden infection  
where pride and self sufficiency  
and lousy thoughts of others are concealed  
so that others do not really know me.

You know me - Jesus, Mate -  
you know me through and through.  
That is cleansing and purifying:  
but it frightens me because  
there are parts that I give up grudgingly.

But in your goodness - down to earth  
fair dinkum goodness -  
I will grow to be yours:  
grow, not to be bigger, but to live  
with you as my best Mate -  
a Mate whom I know and love and trust  
and can bet my life on.

*Peter Woodward (1991)*

## **Dulce Et Decorum Est**

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs  
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of disappointed shells that dropped behind.

GAS! Gas! Quick, boys!-- An ecstasy of fumbling,  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And floundering like a man in fire or lime.--  
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,

He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace  
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,--  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est  
Pro patria mori.

*Wilfred Owen*

## 5. RESOURCES FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

From the Barnabas in Churches website

<http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk>

## 6. RESOURCES FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

### The Church of Scotland

There is a very good liturgy to commemorate Remembrance Day in the *Book of Common Order* of the Church of Scotland

### The United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada has an excellent set of resources, *United for Peace*

Permission is given for their use in worship

[www.united-church.ca/files/planning/seasons/peace](http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/seasons/peace)

## **APPENDIX**

### **Uniting for Peace**

**Tenth Assembly, Uniting Church in Australia, July 2003**

**The Assembly resolved (03.19.02):**

#### **Uniting for Peace**

affirming that God loves all creation and that all people, as members of God's family, are called to love each other, and, recalling past resolutions of this Assembly:

that God came in the crucified and risen Christ to make peace; and that God calls all Christians to be peacemakers, to save life, to heal and to love their neighbours

and

that the Church is committed to be a peacemaking body

(See Assembly Minute 82.57, 1 (a) and (c))

#### **Overcoming Violence**

(a) in response to the World Council of Churches' declaration of the Decade to Overcome Violence, to commit:

- (i) to work together for peace, justice, and reconciliation at all levels – local, regional, and global;
- (ii) to embrace creative approaches to peace building which are consonant with the spirit of the gospel;
- (iii) to interact and collaborate with local communities, secular movements, and people of other living faiths towards cultivating a culture of peace;
- (iv) to empower people who are systemically oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with all struggling for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation; and
- (v) to repent together for our complicity in violence, and to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic, and practice of violence;

(b) to call on all members, councils, agencies, congregations and groups of the Uniting Church to examine their own lives in order to overcome violence and to transform systems and structures of injustice;

#### **Working for Peace and Genuine Security**

(c) to commit to work for peace through justice and genuine security, believing that:

- (i) true justice can only be achieved through means that do not consist of violence, nor perpetuate the cycle of violence;
- (ii) true security can only be achieved through non-violent means that seek to build trust and relationships of understanding and acceptance between nations and people;

(d) to support, and urge the Australian Government to support, the following mechanisms for dismantling the global culture of violence and building a culture of peace through justice and genuine security:

- (i) international treaties and programs on human rights, environment, and social and human development, also ensuring that Australia fulfils its obligations in these areas;
- (ii) co-operation with governments, the United Nations, and community sector and religious organisations to develop peaceful solutions to conflict and to seek just and peaceful means for overcoming and preventing violence in all aspects of our life together, from the personal to the global;

(e) in light of recent wars and in the face of impending war, the increasing global militarism and willingness to use military force, and those countries seeking to acquire or retain nuclear, chemical and/or biological weapons, to declare that:

- (i) ownership, use, or threatened use of nuclear, chemical and/or biological weapons is evil;
- (ii) reliance on weapons for peace and security can never achieve a just and lasting peace. Security achieved through armament is sustained by fear of the enemy and can never see the world reconciled;
- (iii) genuine global security will only be achieved by working for an end to the trade in illegal weapons and the arms trade, preventing the proliferation of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, and requiring progressive disarmament of all nations.