



Refugee and Migrant Sunday Liturgy

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

29th August 2004

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ACTS OF GATHERING

As we prepare for worship, let us be conscious of our surroundings, the love of God and the stories we have heard over the past year concerning refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Australia. Focus on the stories we have seen on the media: how have we responded? What has been our reaction to these stories, to the faces, particularly of children that have flashed before us on the screen?

Bringing Forward of the Symbols 'Building our Future Together'.

(Congregation to please stand as the symbols are placed on the table)

Leader: These symbols, sunflowers, seeds, watering can, empty pot plant, soil and bottle of liquid fertiliser represent the care that is needed if we are to be committed to Building our Future Together in harmony, acceptance and peace. The symbol of the sunflower weaves Refugee and Migrant Sunday with the Decade to Overcome Violence in Australia Programme with its theme 'Cultivating Peace - Turn to the Sun'.* These symbols speak to us of the commitment needed for us to live together in harmony, love and peace. It is similar to gardening. For our gardens to flourish, we need to care for them by preparing the soil, planting the seeds carefully, watering and keeping them nourished so that they may grow and flourish. We are told we need to talk to them with kind and gentle words of encouragement.



Produced for Refugee and Migrant Sunday 2004 by the National Program on Refugees and Displaced People, Christian World Service, National Council of Churches in Australia. For more information, contact your state ecumenical council or James Thomson in the National Office on (02) 9299 2215 or jthomson@ncca.org.au or see www.ncca.org.au/cws/refugees

Refugee and Migrant Sunday Education Kit 2004

(Remain standing)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is with us, compassion and hope surround us!

People: How good it is to come together to praise our God!

Leader: God's love and peace dwells with us!

People: How great is God's loving kindness to us!

Hymn of Praise: TIS 627 Praise & Thanksgiving
(to the tune *Morning has Broken*)

ACTS OF GATHERING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Leader: Let us be still and listen to the voice of God in our hearts

Silence

Leader: Let us confess

People - words of judgement that may have caused another pain.
- **compromises made that may have fragmented truth.**
- **complacency that may have permitted hopelessness to replace hope in the heart of another,**
- **apathy that may have stilled words and actions for justice in the lives of another.**

Silence

Leader: Let us confess that as a community there may have been times when

People - we have failed to accept 'the stranger in our street'
- **we have not welcomed 'the other'**
- **that one different to ourselves**
- **we have not offered a hand of acceptance and a smile of trust**

Silence

Leader: Let us confess that as a congregation there may have been times when

People -we have not always been true to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth
- **we have not always walked in his footsteps and loved our neighbour as we love ourselves**

- we have not practised the biblical gift of hospitality and have closed the door in the face of another.

Silence

People: O God, forgive us and create in us a new heart to build communities founded on acceptance and tolerance. O God, forgive us and fill us anew with your love so that we build a congregation that lives out the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, our Risen Lord. Strengthen us to build a future together that embraces 'the other' and 'the stranger at our door we live with gentleness and generosity, aware always of the needs of others, seeking always to put 'the other' first.

Leader: Hear these words of forgiveness and assurance: In God there is new life Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: Listen to the words of Hebrews 13:1-3

Leader: In Passing the Peace today, let us remember God is in all people and all people are made in the image of God. When we refer to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, we need to remember that they too are made in the image of God. Consequently in Passing the Peace we will take the hand of another or kiss on the cheek and say: "I love the face of God I see in you"

Leader: Let us say **The Lord's Prayer**

Offering / Hymn

TIS 681 Let me See

Acts of Listening

Reading Luke 14: 7 - 14

Homily

Acts of Response

Prayer of Intercession

Leader: God of All Peoples, you call us to be at peace with our families, friends and neighbours.

People: May we be a people of peace.

Leader: God of All Peoples, you call us to let mutual love continue

People: May we be a people of Love.

Leader: God of All Peoples, you call us to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it

People: May we be a people of Acceptance and Welcome

Leader: God of All Peoples, help us to bring the light of the Gospel to those traumatised and living in darkness, to understand and enter their pain as though we ourselves were in the same pain.

People: May we be a people of Light

Leader: God of All Peoples, help us to bring hope to those living in despair and to remember those who are in detention as though we are in detention with them

People: May we be a people of Hope.

Leader: God of All Peoples, help us to bring the Gospel's peace to a divided world. Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever

People: May we be people of Peace

Hymn: TIS 665 Jesus Christ is Calling, Calling in the Streets

Eucharist/Communion



ACT OF COMMITMENT

Leader: We respond to the love of God in Christ embodied for us in the Eucharist /Communion which gathers us around the Table of Christ calling us to move beyond ourselves and our needs to the wider community and their needs. We come now to a time of responding to the call of Building our Future Together through participating in an Act of Commitment. As we do this, we do it in unity with other congregations, from different denominations across Australia who are sharing in Refugee and Migrant Sunday.

Let us watch as the symbols are given meaning: the soil into the pot represents the good earth of Australia; the seeds planted represent people of all different colours, origins and shapes; the water and the liquid fertiliser are added for nourishment representing our welcome and acceptance. These actions symbolise for us growth and the building of our future together. As we watch this process, we become conscious of the care that has to be taken in building our future together; in making a community, a congregation that embraces all peoples. We are called by God to welcome the newcomers amongst us: the refugees, the migrants, the asylum seekers, and the strangers at our door. We are called to provide them a space in which to put down their roots and find a new life filled with hope, peace and joy. Like a garden, we need to nourish their growth with words of kindness, actions of justice and love so that they will grow tall and as beautiful as the flowers.

To practice true hospitality requires words and actions. Let us pledge this morning to translate these symbols into words and then into actions

Leader 1: It is not true that the world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;

Leader 2: This is true: I am the Lord your God who bought you out of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it (Ps. 81:10).

People: We come now to pledge ourselves to building our future together. We seek to fill the hearts of those who come to us as refugees, migrants and asylum seekers with love, acceptance and welcome.

Leader 1: It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, before we can do anything;

Leader 2: Through Him then, let us continue to offer a sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of the lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are blessings to God. (Hebrews 3:15, 16).

People: We come now to pledge ourselves to building a future together. We seek to support one another in the household of faith, to live as followers of the Risen Lord and to cultivate God's peace.

Leader 1: It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

Leader 2: I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things (Jeremiah 2:7)

People: We come now to pledge ourselves to be a part of building our future together. We will seek to share our wealth with those who have been persecuted and forced to flee their homes with little hope of return.

(Based on South Africa: Iona Community)

Hymn When I needed a neighbour TIS 629

People: Loving God, as you send us into the world You love to build our futures together, give us Grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of Your Spirit. AMEN

Process out behind the freshly made up pot plant if your congregation wishes too

The 2004 Refugee and Migrant Sunday Liturgy was prepared by Rev Glynthea Finger and Ms Michele Knight, Christian World Service, Queensland with special thanks to Ms Pam Whebell for helping prepare the symbols.

SUGGESTED OTHER HYMNS:

TIS = together In Song
AHB = Australian Hymn Book
TIS 640 - Kneels at the feet, (AHB 561)
TIS 621 - O God of every nation
TIS 531 - Sent Forth by God's Blessing
TIS 629 - When I needed a Neighbour
(AHB 558)
TIS 681 - Lord Let me see
TIS 468 - We are Your People
TIS 45 - Psalm 85
TIS 473 - Community of Christ
TIS 531 - Sent forth by God's Blessing

PEW SHEET INSERT:

Refugee and Migrant Sunday is a celebration of the contribution refugees and migrants make to Australia and the needs and hopes of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants worldwide. Within Christian World Service (CWS), National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) the major emphasis is on support of the most vulnerable groups.

To learn more about CWS and to support its work see: www.ncca.org.au/cws

or contact your state ecumenical council or
CWS, NCCA, Locked Bag 199, Sydney 1230.

Gifts can be made by post, phone on 1800 025 101 or online at:
www.ncca.org.au/about_us/_support_us/christian_world_service

RESOURCES TO ASSIST LITURGY PREPARATION:

For notes on practical suggestions, the symbols, full scripture readings for the day, suggested other hymns and reflection on Luke 14:7-14 see the accompanying sheet or visit:

- www.ncca.org.au/cws/refugees
- Also see the *Decade to Overcome Violence - Turn to the Sun*:
[www.ncca.org.au/dov/resources/turn_to_the_sun\(dov_kit_2\)](http://www.ncca.org.au/dov/resources/turn_to_the_sun(dov_kit_2))
- www.acmro.catholic.org.au
- www.pastornet.net.au



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY:

CATHOLIC

Sirach 3:17-20
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

ANGLICAN

Jer 2: 4-13
Ps 81:1,10-16
Heb 13:1-8,15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

UNITING

Jer 2: 4-13
Ps 81: 1, 10-16
Heb 13: 1-8, 15-16
(Proverbs 25:6-7)*(Ps 112)*
Luke: 14:1 (2-6) (7-14)*

* The brackets indicate optional or alternate readings. The only generic reading is the Gospel Luke reading