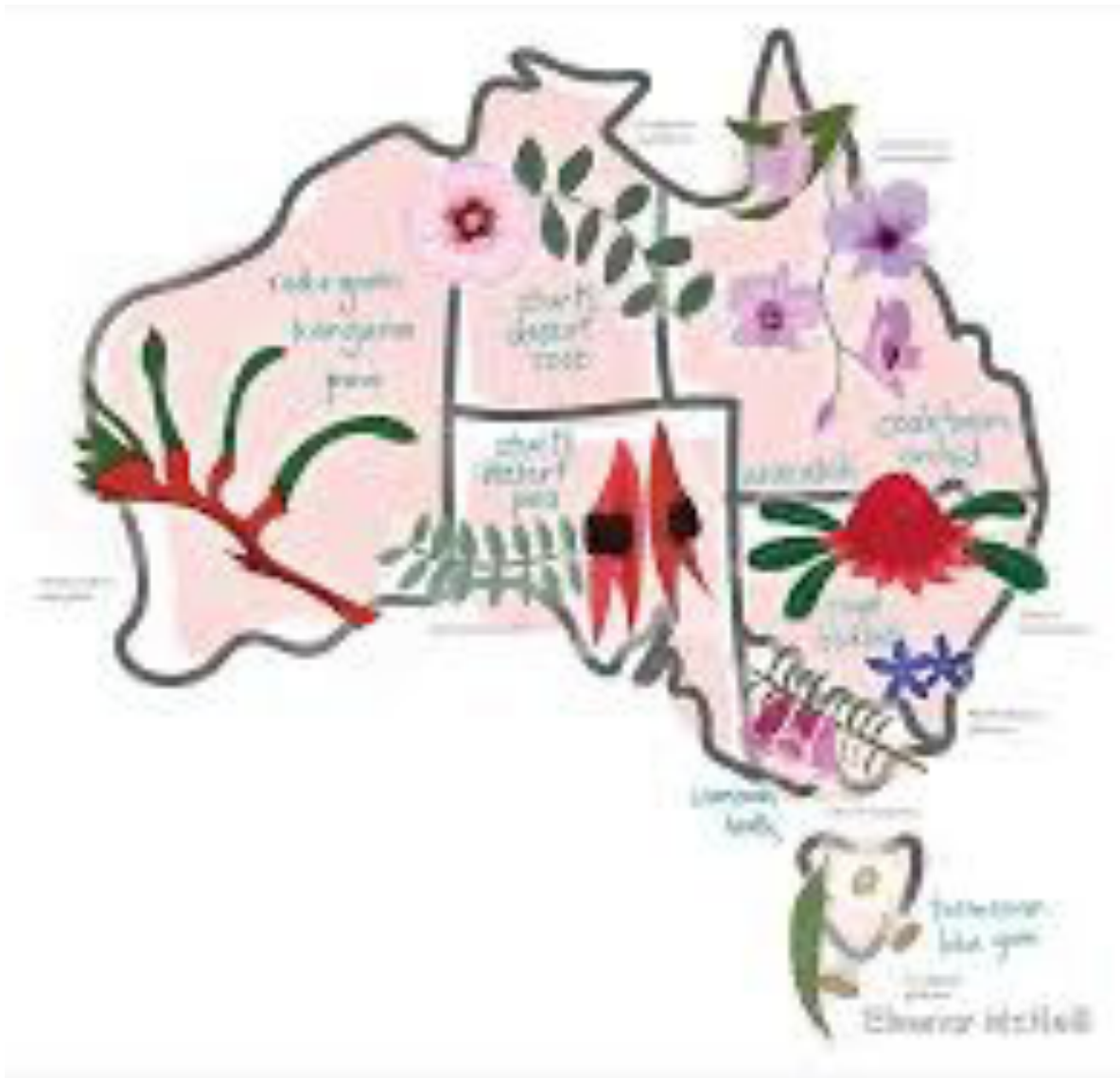


What makes us Australian?



St Aidan's Uniting Church
26th January 2025

Call to Worship

On this wide, brown land
God our Creator is known –
through the gifts of plants and animals,
of tall, shady trees in summer,
and of shining stars in the darkness of night.

In the cool ocean breeze,
the Spirit of God moves –
blowing across our land
refreshing all life.

**Let us follow in the footsteps
of Christ the Human one
as we walk this land
and as we worship God.**

Acknowledgement of country

We are not the first people to walk this land. We acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation who have cared for this place since time immemorial.

We give thanks for and pray for their Elders past and present.

Prayers

Rob Andrew

God has arranged it that in the church universal and at St Aidan's we are one body with each part indispensable to the other.

There is no hierarchy of gifts.
Those who appear lesser are indispensable
Lord, forgive us when we forget this.

Today is Australia day. A day of celebrating all that is good in this country.
We are all one body.

Yet today In Australia many suffer.

Jewish people are suffering

Muslim people are suffering

Aboriginal people are suffering

Refugees are suffering

There are people suffering on the streets of Claremont

Lord, forgive us when we in our comfort forget that we in Australia are one body

Today in the world are more than 100 armed conflicts involving organised groups.

120 million people were forcibly displaced in 2024

People are needlessly killed.

People live in fear.

Children are deprived of education, of vaccinations and of nourishment.

Lord, forgive us when we in our comfort forget that the world is one body.

Words of Assurance

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Know that you are forgiven:

Thanks be to God

Introduction to the theme

Some questions from a practice citizenship test:

1. During the citizenship ceremony, you take an oath to share what?
2. To whom do you pledge your loyalty at the citizenship ceremony?
3. What kind of beliefs does Australia have?
4. When applying for citizenship, what are the things that you must know about the government system?
5. What heritage does Australia have?

Prayer of Intercession

Written by Margaret Banks

Today is Australia Day,
We are a nation that believes in a "fair go"
However we know that for many life is not fair for them.

Lord, we pray for those who are poor.

For individuals and families struggling economically, who have difficulty in finding resources for food, housing, medical expenses, cooling their homes and the cost of equipping children for the school year. We especially think of the homeless and those living in poverty.

Christ, bring good news to the poor.

Lord we pray for the oppressed:

For those who are exploited or harmed by others. Those who are abused and attacked physically and verbally for their race, disability, gender, sexuality and faith. Others who are exploited in their employment and do not experience social justice in their lives.

Christ will bring hope to the oppressed and imprisoned

Lord we pray for all who are lonely
Comfort those who grieve.
Reassure those who feel emptiness and loss.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord God we pray for needs beyond Australia
For all who work for peace and unity.
For those bringing medical and humanitarian aid to those suffering from violence and war.
For those released from imprisonment.

We pray for world leaders that they continue to seek an end to wars and oppression.

Bring hope and peace where there is conflict, bring compassion to those living with uncertainty and healing where there has been violence and loss.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

This land is God's land
and God's Spirit dwells here.

May you encounter God
in unexpected places
and through the faces of surprising people;
may you remember you walk
with Christ, the Human One,
may the Spirit blow you
to the places you least expect.