



A Thanksgiving for Australia

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest,
and in cities at the water's edge,
Creation sings your praise.
Your presence endures
as the rock at the heart of our Land.
When Jesus hung on the tree
you heard the cries of all your people
and became one with your wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.
The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew,
and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you,
to each other and to your whole creation.
Lead us on, Great Spirit,
as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
enable us to walk together in trust
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.
Amen

Rev'd Lenore Parker,
A Prayer Book for Australia 1999.





Prayer for the Journey of Healing

Almighty and loving God, you who created all people in your image,

Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past.

You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.

We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families.

We are sorry and ask Your forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits.

In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable.

Lord, you are our hope.

Amen

By the National and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (www.ncca.org.au/natsiec)
Used with permission.





A Prayer for Reconciliation

Lord God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled with you and with each other.
You made us in your likeness.
You gave us your Son, Jesus Christ.
He has given us forgiveness from sin.
Lord God, bring us together as one,
Different in culture, but given new life in Jesus Christ:
Together as your body, your church, your people.
Lord God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled, healed, forgiven,
Sharing you with others as you have called us to do.
In Jesus Christ, let us be together as one.

© Prayer by Bishop Arthur Malcolm taken from APBA



God of all ancient peoples,
Lord of all tribes,
show those of us who are
more recent arrivals
in this Great South Land
how best we can support Indigenous Australians
to live with dignity,
and to make their rich contribution
to our growing nation.
Thank you for those in government,
and in the church community
who are really listening
and responding with true wisdom
to their cries for justice.
Thank you for rights restored,
for apologies made,
for emerging Indigenous leaders,
poets, priests, campaigners and visionaries.
We pray with anguished soul
for the descendants of peoples
disinherited long ago,
for those broken spirits
who gather without aim or hope
in parks and lanes and dusty streets.
We pray for children without a childhood;
For women without security;
For men without respect.
Lord, we just don't know
what we can do –
except perhaps to admit to them
that we are burdened to belong
to the race that dispossessed them.
Lord, hear our cry;
We long to undo
the many wrongs,
as far as that is possible.
But how do we start, Lord?
Where do we start?
Lord, hear our cry!



Closing Prayer

By Bruce Prewer (adapted). Used with permission.