

Pitt Street Uniting Church
A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia
Founded 1833



12 July 2026

Seventh Sunday in Pentecost NAIDOC Week



<https://www.naidoc.org.au/posters/poster-gallery/2026-national-naidoc-week-poster>

Information about the poster can be found at the end of the liturgy.

Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural backgrounds, sexuality, gender identity or intersex status.

Wherever you are on your journey, where you have come from and wherever you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.

All we ask for is mutual respect.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in **bold**. We will sing hymns without announcement. Stand if you are able, but feel free to remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.

A quiet activity area is available at the north side of the church for young children.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

For five decades, NAIDOC Week has celebrated the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Each year, its themes have called for truth, celebrated culture, honoured resistance, and reminded the nation of who they are.

Fifty Years of Deadly marks a milestone. 'Deadly', in indigenous contexts, means excellent, fantastic, awesome. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement. The Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.

NAIDOC has always been more than a week — it's a platform, a protest, a celebration, and a statement of survival.

We gather as people of earth and spirit

Spirit Voice sings as the light of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candles come into this space.

Please stand as you are able.

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space, our fears and our dreaming,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own,
gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Please be seated.

ACT OF RECOGNITION

The Arrowhead by Mary Oliver

The arrowhead,
which I found beside the river,
was glittering and pointed.
I picked it up, and said,
'Now, it's mine.'
I thought of showing it to friends.
I thought of putting it, such an imposing trinket,
in a little box, on my desk.
Halfway home, past the cut fields,
the old ghost
stood under the hickories.
'I would rather drink the wind,' he said,
'I would rather eat mud and die
than steal as you still steal,
than lie as you still lie.'

Please stand as you are able for the Acknowledgement of Country

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the generous wisdom, spirit, and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the First Peoples of country. We pay tribute to their long history of continuing relationships with land and waters. In NAIDOC Week we celebrate their many achievements, at times against the crushing odds of the theft and violence inflicted on them under colonisation. We honour the Gadigal people as the original custodians of the land on which this church stands and where we meet.

Creator God has long dwelled with the traditional custodians of this ancient land. Land taken without their consent, treaty, or compensation. Sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to journeying with them and working for a more just future.

Please be seated.

GATHERING

In winter's shorter days
we move to the edges of the heart-lands
we seek the light of sacred welcome.

In the depth of wintry nights
we seek the warmth of divine acceptance.

**As seeds that lie dormant, planted deep,
we come to celebrate the rhythms of life
in the presence we name God.**

We gather here to celebrate life's beauty
and find healing where there is pain;
to honour our kinship with each other and with the earth;
to create a more compassionate world,
beginning with ourselves.

Let us celebrate life in the Divine Presence we name God.

In the peace,
in the presence,
in the power.

Let us open ourselves to the source of life, love and justice.

Remain seated to sing.

For you, deep stillness (sung twice)

Words: Julie Perrin
Music: Robin Mann

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle celebrating Christ's presence in
community.

The Spirit of God alive among us present in every expression of
love, nothing is lost on the breath of God.

The Christ candle is lit.

Where the Spirit is there is freedom, where the Spirit is there is life.

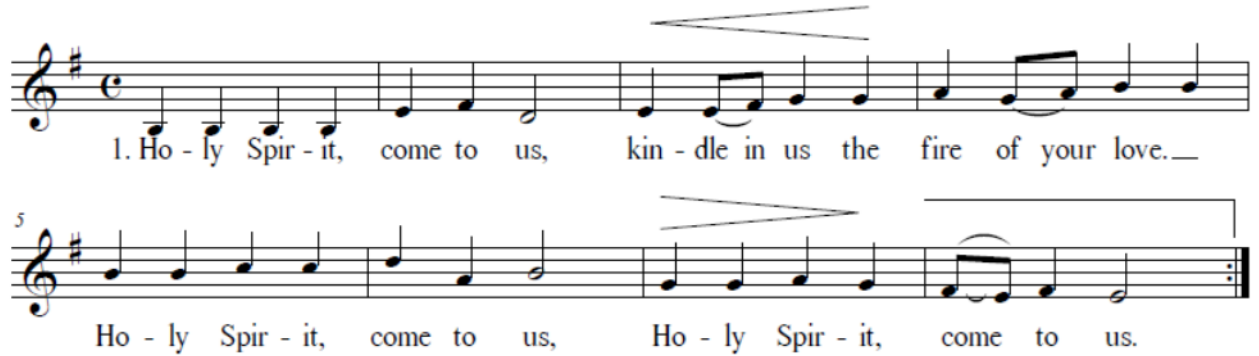
Spirit of God, let your Light be with us all.

Remain seated to sing.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

Holy Spirit come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit come to us, Holy Spirit come to us.



PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In this quiet moment
we are gathered
welcoming Divine Presence
and resting in prayer.

A time of silence.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find rest
find its rest and peace.



JESUS' PRAYER

Remembering Jesus whose story shapes our stories, let us pray in hope for a new day and a new way of living.

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In response to our prayers comes assurance of grace.

The Spirit of love
is Christ's gift to the world
in every age:
a gift for each of us,
and our companion on the way.

Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!

Please stand to sing as you are able.

SUNG RESPONSE

TiS 720 (sung twice)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le-lu- jah, Hal-le-lu- jah!

SHARING THE PEACE

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of the Reconciling One,
be always with you.

And also be with you.

*You are invited to greet those around you,
sharing a sign of peace.*

WELCOMING WORDS OF SPIRIT

As the wings of doves over nestlings,
as the mouths of chicks towards hens,
so may the wings of the Spirit be over our hearts
and our lives open to God's wisdom.

Based on Odes of Solomon 28:1-2
The Odes of Solomon are ancient Syriac hymns

Wisdom found in Texts

Hebrew Bible

Hear words of faith and hope in Psalm 65.

Amy served on the Translation Council as the Hebrew Consultant for the First Nations Version that we will be using for the Psalm.

For the head ceremonial singer. A sacred song of Much Loved One (David).

A song of giving thanks.

For the wisdom and poetry of our ancestors.

We give thanks.

Gospel:

Hear words of faith from the Gospel of Matthew

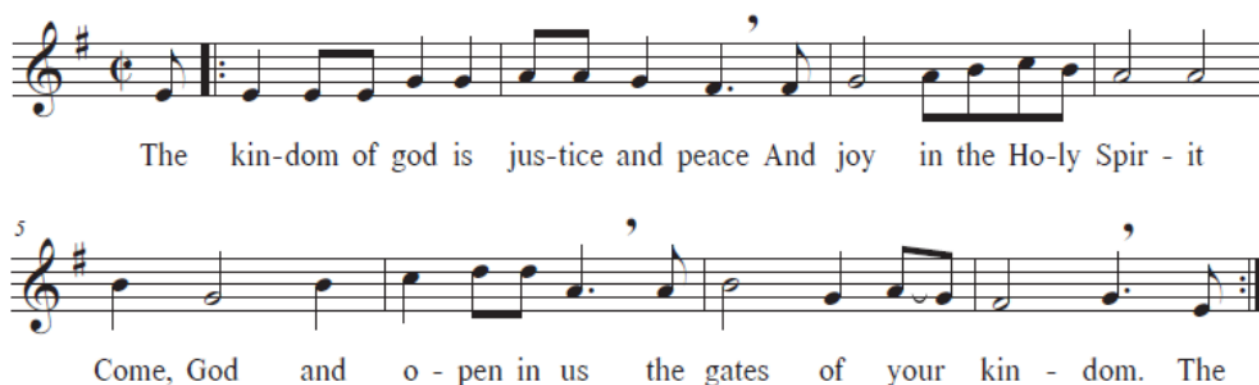
For the Word of God inspiring us,
for the Word among us,
for the Word within us.

We give thanks.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

The kindom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, God and open in us
the gates of your kindom.



CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Amy N Allan

A time of silence.

As Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu sings you are invited to come forward and light a candle as a prayer of hope or whatever may be in your heart. May these prayers thrive and flourish as seeds that fall on fertile ground.

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

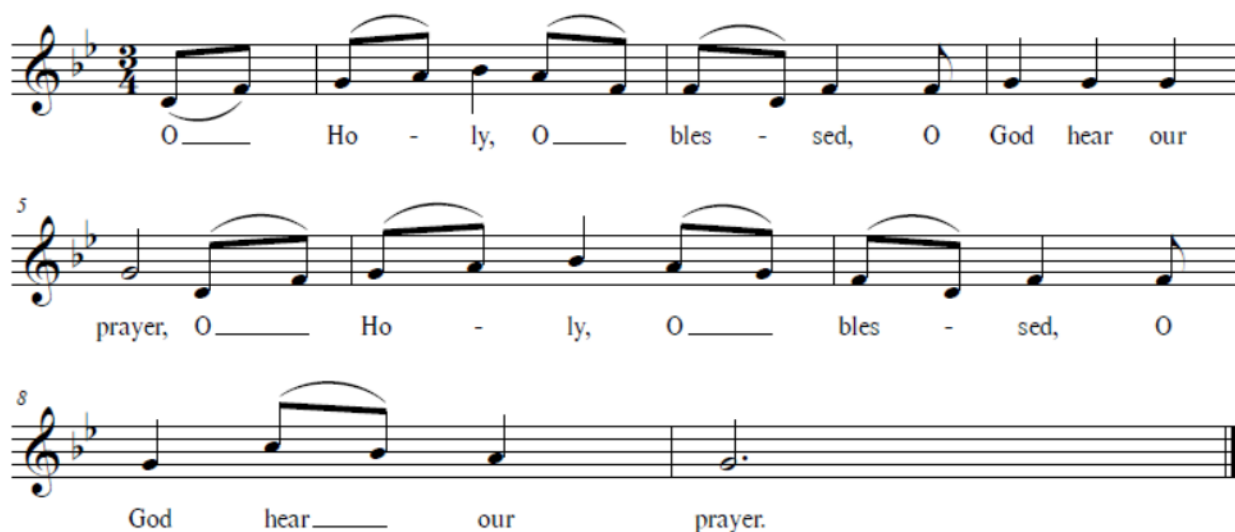
Amy N Allan

We do not recognise you
in those we meet, loving God,
call to us by name as we walk beside them.

CHANT

Pat Mayberry
sung twice

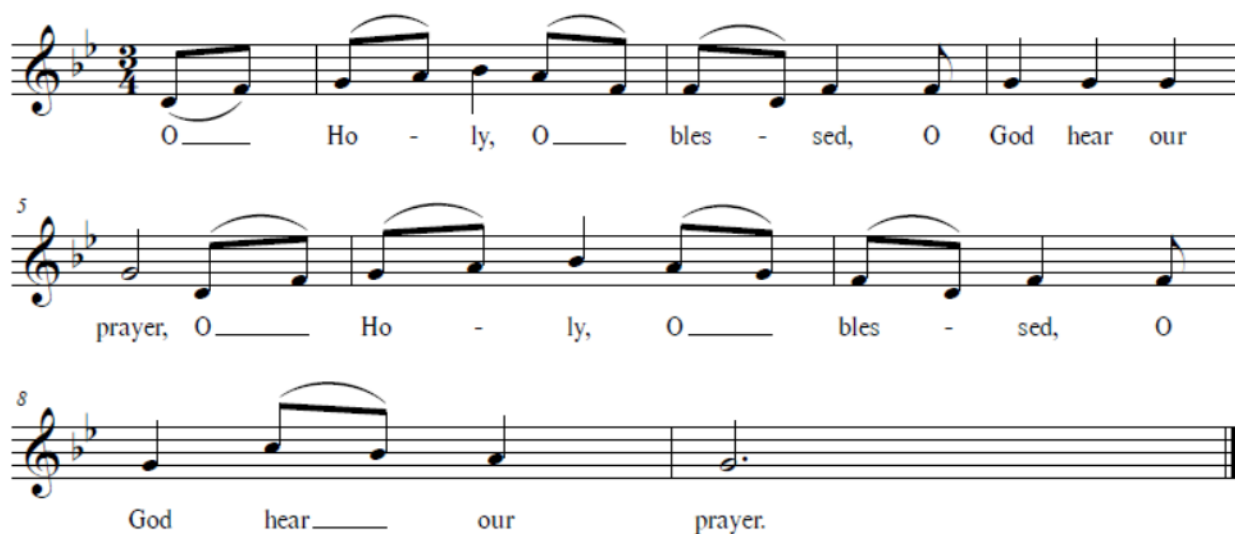
O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer
O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer.



CHANT

Pat Mayberry
sung twice

O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer
O Holy O blessed
O God hear our prayer.



Loving God, we pray for the life, the way and the truth, of love and liberation for all.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We share our offering, as a symbol of our commitment to God and to the world God loves.

Musical interlude

*Please stand as you are able as the offering
is brought forward.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

**Loving God,
this is our moment of recommitment
symbolised in these gifts
brought here for blessing
and dedicated to your love for all people. Amen.**

Living in the world God loves

HYMN

Words: Robin Mann TiS 647

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your wrongs are taken away.*

Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living,
comfort, comfort.

Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother:
comfort, comfort.

Comfort, comfort all my people ...

Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
comfort, comfort.

Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your wrongs are taken away.*

SENDING OUT

Go in peace into the midst of life.
In brokenness, discover wholeness.
In the many, find oneness.
In the centre of our common humanity
experience the presence of the living God.

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the God who dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who rests and rouses us,
bless us and send us out
to fill the world with justice.

SUNG AMEN

African American Spiritual

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

We go out to the world God loves

Please stand as you are able.

RECESSIONAL SONG

Words: Julie Perrin

Music: Robin Mann

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Greg Woolnough

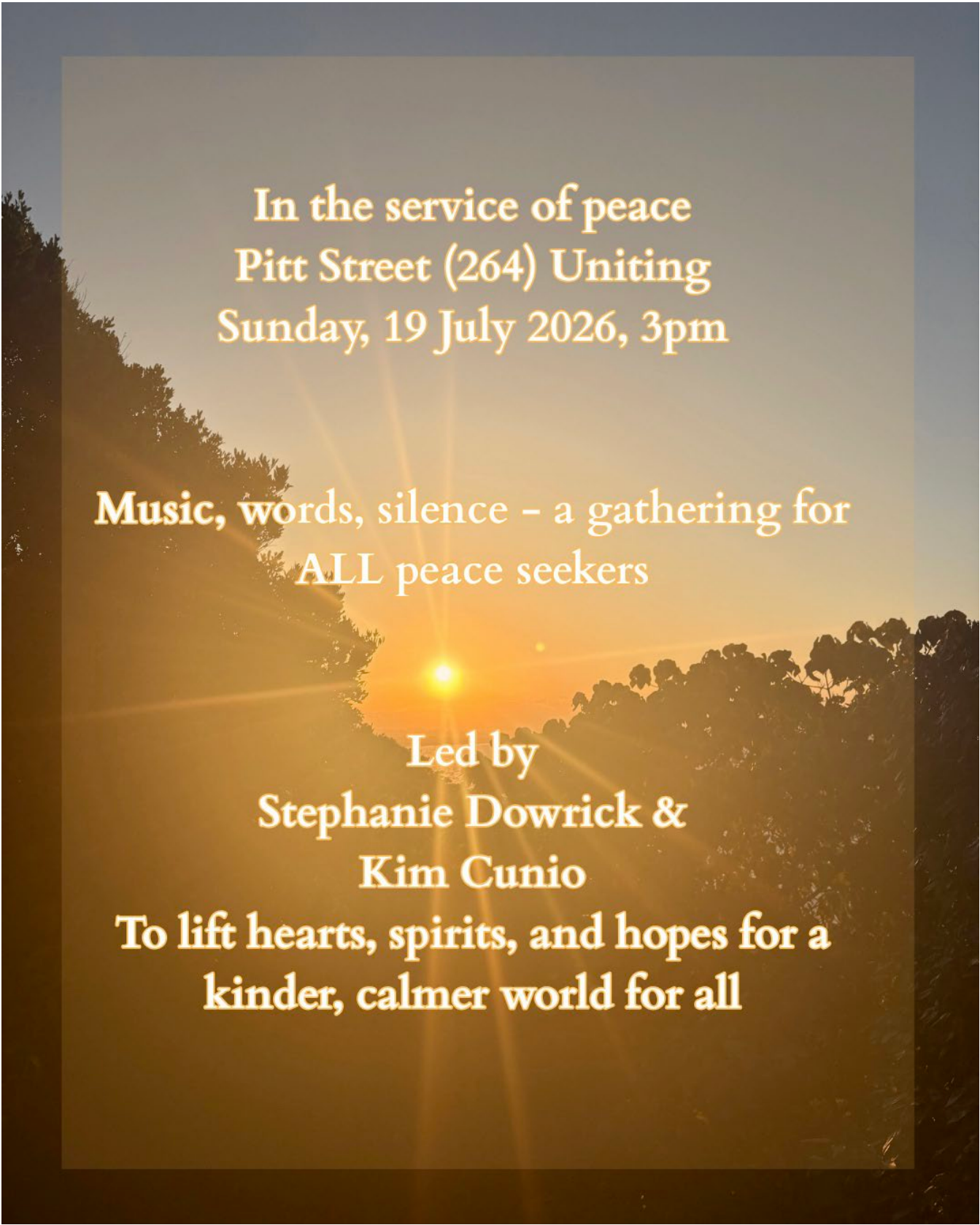
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"The Arrowhead" by Mary Oliver from *Devotions*, Penguin Press, New York, 2017
Spirit Voice of the Enchanted Waters, Voice William Barton from the soundtrack of River,
Australian Chamber Orchestra, 2021
Jesu, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, from the Gospel Album, 2015
Jesus' Prayer is a version of The Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand/Maori Anglican liturgy
Information about NAIDOC week is from www.naidoc.org.au
Prayer of Awareness quote from Wendell Berry's The Peace of Wild Things;
<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/287-the-pea>
O Holy O Blessed: Words and Music by Pat Mayberry
Blessing by Janet Morley (adapted).
Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Pentecost and NAIDOC Pitt Street liturgies.
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The Chronicle – The Joy of Water



The Joy of Water is the theme for our next issue of The Chronicle. What does water mean to you? Please email your articles and/or photos to me by Friday 14 August. Thank you. Linda Murphy: murr_lin@hotmail.com



In the service of peace
Pitt Street (264) Uniting
Sunday, 19 July 2026, 3pm

Music, words, silence – a gathering for
ALL peace seekers

Led by
Stephanie Dowrick &
Kim Cunio

To lift hearts, spirits, and hopes for a
kinder, calmer world for all

Eagle Poem

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.
We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: Fifty Poems for Fifty Years
Joy Harjo (Mvskoke Nation, 23rd US Poet Laureate and First
Native American US Poet Laureate)

PARALPI by Zaachariaha Fielding

Selected from submissions across the country, *Paralpi* by Zaachariaha Fielding has been chosen as the official poster for National NAIDOC Week 2026.

Zaachariaha Fielding is a proud Yankunytjatjara man from the APY Lands in South Australia and is widely recognised as one of the country's leading contemporary First Nations artists and musicians. Known internationally through the acclaimed music duo Electric Fields, his work brings together language, sound, visual storytelling and culture in deeply powerful and contemporary ways.

Paralpi reflects movement, energy and continuity, carrying the stories of Ancestors forward while celebrating the creativity and cultural power of the next generation. Rich in colour and symbolism, the artwork speaks to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past 50 years of NAIDOC and beyond.

Through this work, Zaachariaha honours the resilience of community, the importance of language and identity, and the ongoing cultural renaissance being led by First Nations peoples across the country and across the APY Lands.

Zaachariaha Fielding said:

"Paralpi is about movement — movement through generations, through memory, through song and story. It speaks to the strength our people carry and the beauty of culture continuing to evolve while staying deeply connected to who we are."

National NAIDOC Co-Chair Steven Satour said the work captures the essence of this year's milestone celebration.

"Fifty years of NAIDOC Week represents fifty years of visibility, resistance, pride and deadly achievement. Zaachariaha's work feels both deeply cultural and unmistakably contemporary — which is exactly what NAIDOC represents today. It honours where we've come from while boldly stepping into the future."

National NAIDOC Co-Chair Aunty Professor Lynette Riley added:

"The National NAIDOC poster has become one of the most recognised annual cultural works in Australia. Paralpi carries story, spirit and celebration in a way that invites all Australians to reflect on the richness and diversity of First Nations cultures."