

## #ChangeTheHeart: Aboriginal Sunday

These resources have been prepared by Aboriginal Christian Leader Brooke Prentis, with support from the Common Grace team, to help your church meaningfully engage in prayer and solidarity on Aboriginal Sunday this year.

We pray that your church will be challenged and encouraged as they take this next step on the journey of friendship with our Aboriginal Christian Leaders who lead us down the path towards justice and healing in this land we now call Australia.

### **Recommended Service Order** (use provided PowerPoint slides)

- **Acknowledgement of Country** from your service leader (1:00)
- **Introduction** to Aboriginal Sunday 2020 from your service leader (1:00)
- **Video** message from Aunty Jean (1:32)
- **Prayer** for January 26th by Rev Katherine Rainger (2:00)
- **Video** message from Brooke Prentis (7:19)
- **Responsive Prayer** for the Journey of Healing (2:00)
- **Advocate** by taking a photo of your congregation standing barefoot together (3:00)
- **Promote** the National Prayer Service in your city (0:30)
- **Benediction** Aboriginal Blessing by Brooke Prentis (1:30)

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

It is entirely appropriate for a non-Aboriginal person to do an Acknowledgement of Country, but not a Welcome to Country. We encourage you to find your own words for Acknowledgement of Country but you can find some suggestions here

[https://www.commongrace.org.au/church\\_resources](https://www.commongrace.org.au/church_resources)

### **Introduction**

In 1940, following the Day of Mourning protests in 1938, Aboriginal Christian Leader William Cooper asked the Australian Church to set aside the Sunday before January 26th as Aboriginal Sunday, a day of Christian solidarity calling for full citizenship rights to be granted to Aboriginal peoples. Last year was the 80th anniversary of the Day of Mourning and Common Grace reclaimed William Cooper's original Aboriginal Sunday, and formalised our desire to see individual congregations pausing to commemorate this day and action. Today we continue this. Common Grace is a growing movement of over 46,000 Australian Christians passionate about Jesus and Justice [www.commongrace.org.au](http://www.commongrace.org.au).

### **Videos**

You'll need to download both videos, rather than stream from our website, so you can test them on your system before the service and make sure both visual and audio are working. Please watch the videos the whole way through, to make sure they don't drop out unexpectedly.

### **Prayers and Reading**

You'll need to ask someone from your community to read each prayer. Please ask them to practise their readings beforehand, so they are confident with its message and delivery. One prayer is a responsive prayer, where your congregation will be asked to participate. Please acknowledge the authors of the prayers before reading publicly.

### **Barefoot Advocacy**

We'd love your church to take off their shoes and stand together for a photo that can be shared on your social media on January 26th. Please email your photos to [info@commongrace.org.au](mailto:info@commongrace.org.au)

### **Promoting National Prayer Services**

In the weeks leading up to January 26th we are hosting National Prayer Services across the country, largely led by Aboriginal Christian Leaders. It is very important that your Aboriginal Sunday sharing is not done *instead* of attending these prayer services, so please promote to your church the upcoming National Prayer Service in your city.

Download these resources at [www.commongrace.org.au/aboriginal\\_sunday\\_2020\\_resources](http://www.commongrace.org.au/aboriginal_sunday_2020_resources)