

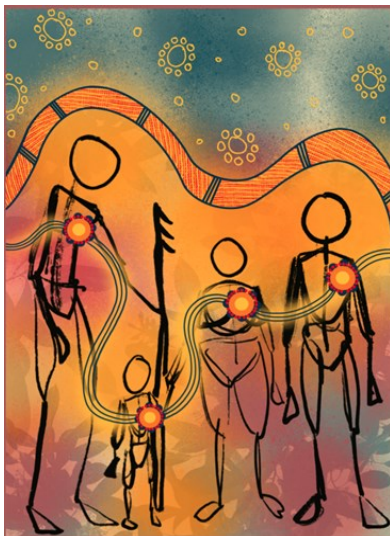


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# NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2026 - DAY OF MOURNING

## Day of Mourning



Artworks by Zoe Belle, Guwa Koa and Kuku Yalanji woman

“These artworks depict the story of Christ’s presence amongst First Peoples of these lands of his creation for generations. His teachings have long been displayed within the stories, songs, dances and ceremony First Peoples have used to connect them with God as great Creator and teacher for our communities.

We, as First Peoples mourn the heartbreaking inequities our past and present generations have and continue to suffer, and we seek to create new ways into a light filled future, by fully claiming the promises Jesus has made to us. We hold deep sorrow for what has been lost forever, and pray that the souls of those who have come before us, know the peace of our Lord, amongst their heavenly home. As a young Aboriginal woman, I show my honour for the sacrifices

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## OUR CHURCH LIFE

*To contact Rev Reuben Edmonds, Minister of All Saints Floreat Uniting Church, please email: [minister@allsaintsfloreat.com.au](mailto:minister@allsaintsfloreat.com.au) or telephone: 0404 935 167.*

<b>Sunday Service</b> <b>9:30am Sunday, 25 January</b> <b>Day of Mourning</b> <b>Rev Reuben Edmonds</b>		<b>Communion Service</b> <b>9:30am Sunday, 1 February</b> <b>After Epiphany 4</b> <b>Rev Reuben Edmonds</b>	
Isaiah 9:1-4	P.677	Micah 6:1-8	P.901
Psalms 27:1, 4-9	P.551	Psalms 15	P.544
* 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	P.206	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	P.206
* Matthew 4:12-23	P.6	Matthew 5:1-12	P.7
* Included in Service		* Included in Service	
<b>HYMNS SUNDAY 25 JANUARY</b>			
TiS 672	Lord of Earth and All Creation		
TiS 253	O Lord Jesus Markapmirr		
Overhead	Will You Come and Follow Me		
Overhead	Summoned by the God Who Made Us (Tune TiS 392)		
Overhead	For Your Deep Stillness		
	<b>SUNDAY 25 JANUARY</b>	<b>SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY</b>	
Welcomer	Michiko Stuart	Shyrelle Bennett	
Door Steward	Helen Bloomfield	Margaret Smithson	
Church Council	Lee-Anne Burnett	Els Mengler	
Bible Reader	Phillip Smith	Debbie Thornton	
Flowers		Marie Yuncken	
Morning Tea	Beth & John McKechnie Oli Raynor	Jean Read Marie Yuncken	
Music	Christine Ryan - Piano Joseph Lunardi - Violin	Christine Ryan - Piano Joseph Lunardi - Violin	
Multimedia	Rhondda Tilbrook	Deborah Marshall	
Media Clicker	Marie Yuncken	Sue Talbert	

## OUR CHURCH LIFE

### *Prayers*

**From The WA Synod:** Gingin Uniting Church, St Stephen's School Carramar and Duncraig. Assembly Circles of Interest: Discipling the Next Generations and Transforming Worship.

**Ecumenical Prayer will be for:** Cyprus, Greece, Turkiye

**Our local prayers will be for:** Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

### All Saints Floreat UC Activities This Week

Public Holiday - 26 January	No Lectionary Bible Study this week	
Church Council Meeting	Tuesday, 27 January	6:30pm - Page Room

### *Offerings*



Offerings to All Saints Floreat Uniting Church may be made by bank transfer to:

BSB – 036 063, Account Number – 122093.

Thank you.

### *Day of Mourning cont..*

and heartbreak of my Elders, by seeking to grasp with both hands, all of the opportunities that have been hard fought for my benefit. I seek

to know, and be comforted by the light of Jesus, and to let that light shine into the darkness of our daily struggles and suffering.”



- Zoe Belle

### *Day of Mourning*

*Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia*



“Each year, on the Sunday before 26 January, our Church gathers in truth-telling, lament, and hope as we mark the Day of Mourning. This is not simply an observance - it is a spiritual discipline and a covenant commitment. In 2015, the Assembly accepted the request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) that our whole

Church pause to remember the ongoing impacts of invasion, dispossession, and injustice on First Peoples. Through this request, Congress invited the Church to walk more faithfully in the promises we made in 1994 when we entered into Covenant.

That Covenant named the pain caused when the Church failed to hear the wisdom, spirituality, and leadership of First Peoples. It confessed the harm that came when the gospel of Jesus Christ was confused with colonising ways. And it committed us to a different path—one shaped by humility, truth, justice, and life-giving relationships. This Day of Mourning invites us again to live into that promise, not for one Sunday alone, but as part of an ongoing journey of covenant faithfulness for our whole Church.

We recognise that congregations come to this day carrying different histories, emotions, and understandings. Some approach it with deep sorrow; some with uncertainty; others with a longing to do better. Wherever we are on that journey, we are held by the same God whose love calls us into deeper relationship. The Scriptures appointed for this Sunday speak powerfully into our shared story. Isaiah promises that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light - a light that does not deny the darkness but transforms it from within.

## CHURCH NEWS & INFORMATION

The artwork accompanying this resource reflects this truth with beauty and courage: the pathways of sorrow, the strength of ancestors, the movement of Christ's healing light through story, community, and Country.

In the gospel, Jesus calls ordinary people to leave old patterns behind and follow him into a new way of life grounded in justice, compassion, and shared purpose. Paul urges the early church to be "knit together" despite their differences—an image that resonates deeply for us as First and Second Peoples seeking a common life marked by respect, equity, and reconciliation. So, as we gather on Sunday 25 January 2026, we encourage every congregation and community of faith to enter this day with open hearts.

**Grieve with your First Peoples communities.**

**Stand in solidarity.**

**Pray for healing for our nation.**

**Commit yourselves anew to the long journey of justice, peace, and covenant relationship.**

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we weave threads of love across this land, trusting that God is restoring, renewing, and reconciling all creation. Grace and peace to you,"



**SUPPORT UNITING AID! BRING YOUR  
WEET-BIX & ROLLED OATS  
TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

**Sunday Services at All Saints are Live Streamed**

and may be viewed via YouTube at 9:30am each  
Sunday.

<https://www.youtube.com/@floreatunitingchurch4997/streams>

## *Day of Mourning*

*Rev Ken Sumner*

*Interim Co-Chair Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress*



The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) observes an annual Day of Mourning for First Peoples on the Sunday before January 26th.

This significant observance, requested by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), is an expression of the UCA's Covenant relationship and

commitment to truth-telling and justice. It calls on congregations to:

**Lament** the devastating effects of invasion and colonisation, including dispossession, violence, and ongoing injustices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Acknowledge** the Church's own complicity in this history.

**Affirm** the sovereignty and resilience of First Peoples and honour their continued cultural and spiritual life to Country.

**Commit** anew to the journey of reconciliation, healing, and standing in solidarity with First Peoples in their struggle for justice.

There is a continued call for Justice, not Charity – a demand for true self-determination, equality and equity in an honoured shared future together with integrity.

The Day of Mourning provides a crucial moment for deep reflection, confession, listening, and prayer, shaping a shared future for First and Second Peoples in Australia.

*Please join us for  
Morning Tea after the Service on  
Sunday*



## *A Message from the Moderator* *Rev David Jackson*

I wish to inform you of an important update regarding our General Secretary, Rev Hollis Wilson.

Over the Christmas break Hollis's wife Rosa experienced some serious medical incidents. These have resulted in her requiring long-term hospital-based health care and rehabilitation.

To support her through this time, Hollis has made the decision to resign as General Secretary, effective at the end of January 2026. He will continue his role as Minister at Uniting Church in the City.

Conversations are now taking place regarding the next steps for the General Secretary role and further updates will be made in the coming weeks.

We give thanks to God for the leadership Hollis has given to the Uniting Church WA during his time with us, and offer Rosa, Hollis, and their family our prayers and support.

## *A Visit to Israel* *for Science and History* *Richard Smith*

In late 1977 I found myself in Israel attending an International Course on Irrigation at the Volcani Centre, Israel's primary agricultural research institution, near Tel Aviv. It was my sabbatical year and I used part of my study time learning about Israeli's development of drip irrigation to maximise their use of scarce water. Israel in developing this technology increased water use efficiency by 50%, compared to conventional flood irrigation while

*Continued on Page 8*

## *A Visit to Israel for Science and History cont...*

increasing yields due to precision placement of water in the root zone.

During my visit Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made history with his first visit to Israel, becoming the first Arab leader to set foot in the country. This bold diplomatic gesture, announced unexpectedly, aimed to break the cycle of conflict following wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. Sadly, Sadat would be assassinated in 1981 by a Palestinian student who could not accept reconciliation as a viable option to war.

Each Sabbath when at sun set and all Jewish activity ceased, we would jump on the Arab buses and head west to Jericho, down to the Dead Sea for a boyant swim in its hypersaline water and then travel by cable car to the top of Masada, where King Herod the Great had built a lavish refuge. It achieved fame when in 66 CE, Jewish zealots who after Jerusalem's fall seized Masada as a base to resist Roman forces. Nearly 1,000 rebels held out for 3 years until the Romans breached the walls, only to find a few survivors because to avoid enslavement they chose a mass suicide.

Midst all these happenings I found my Christian faith being heightened by travelling the country where Jesus had walked and taught. In particular with visits to Nazareth, Capernaum on the Sea of Gallilee and the Banias springs flowing forth from the base of the Golan Heights into the Jordan river. In Jerusalem visits to the Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock, Western Wailing Wall, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives and Church of the Holy Sepulchre were memorable experiences. But also witnessing a crowd rushing out of a side street as a bomb went off was a reminder of the underlying tensions between Palestinians and Israelis who both revere Jerusalem and seek to share this Holy City.