

## **An Australian Statement of Faith**

We believe in God, creator and sustainer of life, creator of the black woman and the white woman, of the black man and the white man, of the woman who is not quite black and not quite white, of the man who is not quite white and not quite black.

We believe in God, the Creator, who gave us the desert pea and the flowering gum, the Murray cod and the platypus, the Southern Cross and the Milky Way. We believe in God, who gave us a land to keep, to revere and to cultivate.

We believe in Jesus, born of a woman who was not quite black and not quite white, who was not quite sure of who she was or who she was to be, who faithfully struggled to believe.

We believe in Jesus – who died for our sake and is now risen, liberator of all humanity, Emmanuel, God-with-us, God-for-us.

We, women and men of the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, believe in the power of the Spirit to set us free to regenerate our land, to transform our world, to work for peace, to listen to the loneliness of 'the drover's wife' and the 'weeping man'.

We believe in the power of the Spirit to transform our dealings with our sisters and our brothers of other colours and diverse creeds.

### **(Communion)**

#### **\*Prayers of the People**

*Following each prayer: (Danish: Your mercy is great, Praise the Lord!)*

**T:** Din nåde er stor,

**C: Pris Herren!**

**T:** Triune God, we bring all these petitions before You and lay them at Your feet. Thank You for never failing in Your love for us.

**C: Amen.**

#### **\*Benediction**

#### **\*Sending**

**T:** As you go out to your homes and places of work and play, be reminded of God's blessings in your life, and His call for us to share those blessings – to be God's hands and feet, showing justice, love and mercy to the world.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### **\*Closing Song**

*"We Are Blessed" by Andy Flannagan, © 2007 Andy Flannagan*

#### **Postlude – Music by Team**

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**He has shown you what is good; and  
what does the Lord require of you, but to  
DO justly, to LOVE mercy, and to WALK  
humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8**



## Prelude – Music by Team

### \*Call to Worship

- T:** Welcome, everyone - all ages, all walks of life, all histories.  
Let us begin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We will start by acknowledging who God has revealed Himself to be.
- T:** We worship a merciful, active God who is present to all people in all countries.
- C: Jai Masih Ki!**
- T:** We worship a God who desires our whole love. We respond by giving our whole lives.
- C: Jai Masih Ki!**
- T:** We worship a God who not only tells us, but shows us how to love; a God who loved us before we knew Him.
- C: Jai Masih Ki!**
- T:** We worship a God who draws us into one community to do His will, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to walk in His light.
- C: Jai Masih Ki!**

### \*Gathering Song

*"Con Poder" by Carlos Sosa, Carmelo Torres, Christian Fernandez, © 2003 So Melo Music*

### \*Passing of the Peace

- T:** La paix du Seigneur!
- C: La paix du Seigneur !**

## Announcements & Greeting

### Confession and Absolution

- T:** Holy God,
- C: We confess that we have often not acted justly, loved mercy, nor walked humbly with You. We are torn between caring and selfishness, mercy and resentment, humility and arrogance. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. Neighbors both near and far suffer from our failure. We realize that there is nothing we can do to bridge the divide we have created. We are unable to heal our own wounds.**

*(silence for self-examination)*

- T:** Please forgive us, Jesus.
- C: Please restore our relationship with You, with one another, and with ourselves.**
- T:** Hear the good news: God hears our confession and our prayers for mercy, and says to us "Your sins are forgiven!" Through Jesus Christ God reconciles us to Himself, as it tells us in the scripture: (Romans 5:8-11)

## \*Song of Praise

### Old Testament Reading – Micah 6:6-8 (NKJV) DO. LOVE. WALK.

*(Micah was an eighth century prophet who spoke God's judgment against the people of Judah because of their corruption and selfishness. He told them their deceitful behavior made their worship of God a sham. What the Lord requires, Micah told them, is not "going through the motions of worship," but to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." Micah warned the people that they and their nation would be destroyed because they were doing evil, rather than the good God required.*

*But Micah's words were not only gloom and doom - he also promised that God would be faithful to Judah, and would someday send them a Savior who would forgive their sins and bring peace.*

*We, too, have failed to do what God requires of us, and therefore we also live under God's judgment and are in need of a Savior. We now know that Jesus is the promised Savior, and He came to bring all of us salvation and peace. When we fall short in our own lives and fail to do as God requires, we need to look to the One who truly fulfilled the requirement of God to "Do, Love, and Walk.")*

### New Testament Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:12 -18, 27 (NIV)

*(Paul reminds the Corinthians that we are all members of the Body of Christ.)*

## Children's Message

### Offering – Music by Team

- T:** Giver of all good things,
- C: Please accept the gifts of our hearts and hands. We offer them to You trusting that You will bless them, and trusting that You will continue to shape our hearts to joyfully give of ourselves in Your name. We come before You, humbled and grateful, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## \*Gospel Reading

### Message

### Song of Response

*"Your Name" by Joshua Vandercar. Used by Permission.*

## Declaration of Faith

*(The Christian Church traditionally confesses its faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed. A group of our brothers and sisters in the southern hemisphere have expressed their understanding of the Apostles' Creed in the following statement of faith.)*

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