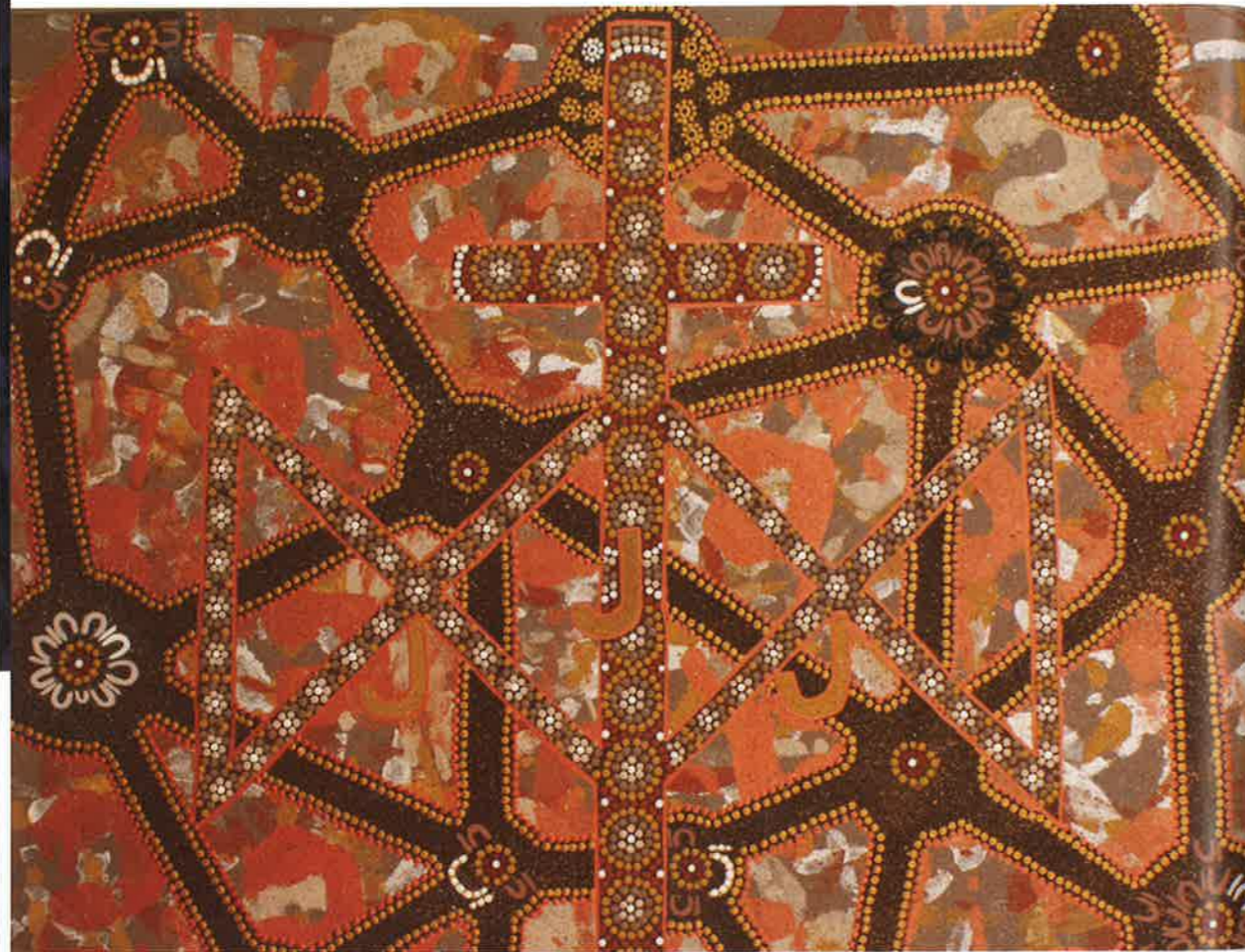


Sorry and Reconciliation

26 May - Sorry Day

27 May - 3 June - National Reconciliation Week

1st Sunday in July - ATSI Day



gathering

Sit quietly allowing stillness to settle around you. Gaze at the image and Julian's words and let them resonate in you. When you are ready stand facing the direction indicated.

It is such a common thing to find politicians shaking their heads and saying so wisely that it seems destined for the black races to fade away before the white. Fade away indeed! You stop a white man's wages and give him nothing to eat, and see if he won't fade away!

Julian Tenison Woods, 1867

We face in the direction of the desert and of Uluru.

 **Walk with us on the path of healing and reconciliation, Living God.**

We face in the direction of the Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Let us acknowledge their habitation of the land and sea from long before we came to this land.

 **Walk with us on the path of healing and reconciliation, Living God.**

We face in the direction of our seat of Government.

 **Walk with us on the path of healing and reconciliation, Living God.**

context

Our reading from Isaiah is a rallying call to the nations to treat their people justly. The leaders of both Israel and Judah have fallen into unjust practices, feathering their own nests and neglecting their people. Isaiah provides practical and encouraging images of the kind of justice the Living God desires for all people.

listening *Isaiah 58: 6-12*

This is the sort of fast that pleases me;
Remove the chains of injustice!
Undo the ropes of the yoke!

Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter!
Share your bread with those who are hungry, and shelter homeless poor people!
Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood!

Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn – and your healing will break forth like lightning!
Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of the Living God will be your rearguard.

Cry, and the Living God will answer;
call, and God will say, 'I am here' –
provided you remove from your midst all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk!
If you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows will become like noon.

The Living God will always guide you, giving relief in desert places.
God will give strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never run dry.

You will rebuild the ancient ruins, and build upon age-old foundations.
You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, and Restorer of Ruined Neighbourhoods.

The Inclusive Bible. Used with permission.

breaking open

What can I do to reconcile relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?


Take time to reflect and share with each other.

responding

- † We pray that we work towards open relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- † We pray for legislators that they work for recognition, reconciliation and fairness for all people empowering us for now and the future.
- † We pray that we may appreciate the wisdom of ATSI elders.
- † We pray for cooperation and resolve to recognise the First Peoples in the Australian Constitution.

 **Spirit of
Reconciling Love,
hear us.**

Invitation to include other prayers

 God of all peoples, hear our prayers and move us to appreciate and respect the First People of our land.
We ask this of the Jesus, friend of all people,
and the creative Spirit.
Amen

blessing

*May the Ancient Dreaming
inform and inspire us
The resilience and generosity
of the First Peoples encourage us
The clarity and respect
of the Prophets motivate us
The endurance and colour
of the land sustain us
The yearning of all peoples
for unity reconcile us
And may we hear the Living God say
"I am here among you."*

Amen

Painting by Cassandra Gibbs. Used with permission.