



Anzac Day Prayer



PREPARE

Bring a candle that you can light during this prayer, an Australian flag, CDs of The Last Post and/or Reveille, Advance Australia Fair.

We invite you to find a comfortable position as you read this reflection. Become aware of your breathing. When you are ready, slowly read this prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The mercy of God flows through the land on which we gather today, let us pause in silence and acknowledge the traditional owners who have cared for this land for generations. Let us honour those elders' past, present and emerging whose sacred connection with this country is a gift to us all. Today we also pay respect to those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War- those known to us by name and those whose heritage was unknown.

INTRODUCTION

ANZAC Day is a day when Australians and New Zealanders remember and honour those who fought and died for freedom. We pray not to glorify war but to remember those who have served our country during times of crisis and to reflect upon their selfless sacrifice. Conscious that there are many men and women around the world still working for peace, we hold fast to the powerful hope that peace can exist today. Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

PRAYER

God of Life, In this season of Easter,

We rejoice in the New Life your Son the Risen Jesus gives us.

You offer us hope. You offer us peace.

We thank you for this treasured land of ours,

Today as we remember the ANZAC soldiers, men and women, who fought to protect our country, and the many animals who assisted them, twenty-four seven.

Help us to strive for peace in all we do.

We make our prayer in the name of our Risen Lord. Amen.

WE LISTEN

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John (15: 9,12,13)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love... "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

WE RESPOND

As we pray, let us light a candle of remembrance.

This reminds us of the Eternal Flame which burns in war memorials across Australia.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to "love one another".

In a world where so many live in fear of being hurt or killed, of going hungry, and of losing their homes and loved ones, let us pray that we will be able to respond to Jesus' call.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for our world. (Pause)

Bless all people who work tirelessly around our world for peace and freedom. (Pause.)

Hear us, loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for all Australians. (Pause)

Help us value our freedom, the beauty of our land and our way of life. (Pause.)

Hear us, Loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for those whose lives have been affected by war. (Pause.)

Give them hope that peace will come. (Pause.)

Hear us, loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for all families of soldiers who have gone to war. (Pause.)

Be with them in their worry and their grief. (Pause.)

Hear us, loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for those who have lost their lives because of conflict. (Pause.)

May they rest in peace with you. (Pause.)

Hear us, loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of peace, we pray for peace in our own hearts, in this community and in our family. (Pause.)

May we learn to be peacemakers in our daily lives. (Pause.)

Hear us, loving God.

Make me a channel of your peace.

God of Peace, you sent your Son to bring peace to the world.

May we follow this example in our words, thoughts and actions.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The Ode is from a poem written by Laurence Binyon entitled 'For the Fallen'. We usually only say the last stanza of the poem. In this we call to mind those who never come back, those who never grow old. Let us reflect on what we have heard and pray for future peace as we listen.

THE ODE

For the Fallen

They shall grow not old, As we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them, Nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, And in the morning

We will remember them. Lest we forget.



PLAY The Last Post

PAUSE for one minute of silence.

PLAY Reveille

God of Peace, we pray for all who show love and peace in our world. May the message of Jesus' love spread throughout our earth. We ask for the gift of peace in our hearts. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Grateful for the freedom that we know today, let us offer a Sign of Peace to those we meet today and every day.

