WORSHIP RESOURCES
FOR
ANZAC
AND
REMEMBRANCE SERVICES
Dedication

This resource book is dedicated
to the memory of

Chaplain Andrew Gillison,
past minister of
St. George’s Church, East St. Kilda,
who was killed in action at Gallipoli,
22 August, 1915,
while serving as chaplain to the 14th Battalion, AIF.
Introduction

There has been a steady trickle of requests to the Commission on Liturgy of the Uniting Church in Australia for worship resources for use on Anzac Day or Remembrance Day or other similar occasions.

Chaplains in the armed services prepare their own services using and adapting existing material and writing their own. Many of them would welcome a book of resources.

Ministers frequently are asked to participate in Anzac or other services held to remember Australians who have died in active service and many of these ministers do not have personal experience of being in the armed services or knowledge of their traditions. These ministers frequently look for resources suitable to the military context.

The Commission on Liturgy welcomes this book of resources for worship for such occasions, but it does not necessarily endorse all its contents. It is not an official publication of the Commission. Most of the work of compiling the material has been done by Chaplain David Hosking, drawing on material he has developed in his chaplaincy work in the Australian Army. He has worked with the Commission, sending drafts and accepting suggestions. An unofficial book does not require the painstaking work through many drafts that an official worship book requires. It can be produced more quickly and that has been required in this year.

The Parish of East St. Kilda in Victoria has shown great interest in the preparation of this material in the light of its particular traditions and has given financial support towards its publication. The minister of the parish, Rev John Bottomley, has offered suggestions and support, and the St George’s organist, Ms Margaret Petherick, provided a list of suitable hymns.

Other material may emerge later and services within the context of the congregation may carry different emphases. The Aboriginal people of Australia may wish to include their insights also. The Commission on Liturgy would welcome contributions from other writers for future work. This resource is offered to help meet a need and provide guidance for those needing to lead worship in a military context.

Geraldine Wheeler,
Secretary, Commission on Liturgy, June 1995.
Preface

This handbook was generated by a need for parish ministers and chaplains to have adequate resources and orders of worship for Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and those public services which include memorial services and the dedication of memorials.

Where possible, Australian resources have been used to maintain an Australian ethos. The orders have a strong military bias as most occasions where these orders would be used would be involving past serving members of the public.

The general themes of the services are:

- service
- sacrifice
- peace
- the need to strive for justice and peace for all people.

It is sad that such services all recall the sacrifice of Australians in Australia and overseas for such ideals.

The material enclosed should be used as a guide for ministers and chaplains. It may be used as written or may be developed for a particular occasion or congregation. Either way, such services, because of their nature, become very profound and moving.

Finally, the supreme example of Christ, crucified for all humanity to bring peace, justice and freedom, may bring some understanding to people as they ponder the tragedy of those who gave their lives that we can live in peace.

David Hosking
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**Anzac Day Services - An Introduction**

This section contains three Anzac Day services and a selection of other material. It is intended to provide the minister or chaplain with a guide for the structure of an Anzac service within the context of a public setting, a service for congregational use and a service for use within a military or military association setting.

The material chosen emphasises the non-militaristic nature of the Dawn Service with the central themes of service, sacrifice and the need to strive for peace, justice and freedom for all people. The services are a memorial to those who have died.

All services have included bugle calls as part of the liturgy. For military people, the bugle calls signify two important times during the day. The ‘last post’ is the last bugle call of the working day signifying that the night piquets have been posted and the soldiers may now rest. It concludes on a rising note as a symbol of hope for the following day. The ‘rouse’ is the first call of the day and within the context of worship symbolises the trumpet call which heralds the resurrection.

The services may be used as written or as a basis for development for parish or military use.
Basic Military Service Structure

The following is a guide for the order of ceremony for an Anzac Day service.

1. Guard and band march on
2. Receiving of official guests
3. Service Associations march on
4. Catafalque Party is mounted
5. Call to worship
6. Prayer
7. Hymn
8. Scripture readings
9. Address
10. Laying of wreaths
11. Reading of a requiem
12. Hymn
13. Ode
14. Last post
15. Silence
16. Rouse
17. National anthem
18. Catafalque Party is dismounted
19. Departure of official guests
20. Guard and band march off
21. The assembly disperses

This basic structure does not dictate the actual order or form of the service of worship used, but indicates where the order of service fits into the overall structure of an Anzac Day service.

Additional prayers, hymns, meditations and choral works may be included in the order from 5 to 17.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne  
will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them  
to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:16, 17. NRSV

We thank you, O God,  
for those who gave themselves with such courage  
in service and sacrifice for their country.  
Inspire us to spend ourselves for the common good  
that we may build up the harmony and peace  
for which they fought and died.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

or other suitable prayer

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON
God of peace, we bring our offering in gratitude and praise. We remember that offering of our Lord, once and for all at Calvary, which is at the centre of our thanksgiving. From this may peace and unity spread across our land and may the peoples of the world turn from war and violence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 

Amen.

or

Bounteous God, you bring from the buried grain a rich harvest. May the love and sacrifice of Christ who laid down his life for his friends continue to blossom into rich fruits. May this love and sacrifice continue to give strong hope in the victory over death to all grieving the loss of loved ones, who also laid down their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LAYING OF WREATHS

At this point the congregation may lay wreaths at the communion table or a suitable memorial within the place of worship. After the laying of wreaths, the Last Post may be played followed by a time of silence and then the Rouse.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These prayers may include prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed.

HYMN

This should be a communion hymn if the sacrament of Holy Communion is to follow. The order from ‘Uniting in Worship’ is suggested.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by our communion in the body broken and blood poured out, bind us together in a spirit of sacrifice that our remembering of the fallen may make us ardent defenders of peace. We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

15 HYMN

16 PRAYER
Lord, bless your people
and all who labour in the cause of peace
that through them
your Spirit will renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

17 BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
rest and remain with you
now and forever.
Amen.

[Note. The three elements of praise, proclamation of the word and response to the word are included in this basic order. It follows in general outline the order of service for the Lord’s Day in ‘Uniting in Worship’. The inclusion of the laying of wreaths after the offering prayer includes the memorial of those who have lost their lives in conflict and war. The communion which follows concludes that memorial part of the service in the church’s great memorial of the sacrifice of Christ for all people.]
An Anzac Day Service for
Military Units and Associations

This may be used as a dawn or daylight service. It is used in the context of the guide outlined in 2.

1 CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day, above all days, we recall those who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for Australia and those who died for the freedom of all people. We remember those who still sleep amid the ridges of Gallipoli and the terraced hills of Palestine; those who lie in the cemeteries of France and Russia; those who lie in the shimmering haze of the Libyan desert, the jungle of Malaya, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands; those who fought in the liberation of Europe, in the defence of Britain, in Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, in our own land and the unknown resting places in every sea. We remember all who have fallen since in the defence of peace, on land, in the air and on the sea. We remember each man, woman and child who has died so that the light of freedom, justice and humanity may continue to shine. Today, as we remember, we ask God that we and our successors may prove worthy of their sacrifice.

2 PRAYER

Lord God, as the sun rises this day, as it did on the first Anzac Day, help us to remember the sacrifice of the first Anzacs, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service. Help us to remember the widows and widowers, girlfriends and boyfriends, parents and orphans, sisters and brothers and all who waited in vain the return of a loved one. Help us remember the mateship, agony, courage and compassion of war service; but save us from ever glorifying the horror and tragedy of war. As the sun rises on this day, Lord, help us to remember. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.
Loving Father, who gives life to all, 
we entrust to your keeping those who have died 
in the service of this country. 
Lord, hear us. 
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer from the effects of war; 
grant them your peace and healing strength; 
and for those who in sadness recall lives lost; 
grant them comfort in the hope of resurrection. 
Lord, hear us. 
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we be inspired by the determination 
of those who have served in the fight 
for freedom, justice and peace. 
Lord, hear us. 
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, have mercy on our broken and divided world. 
Give your Spirit of peace to all people 
and remove from them the spirit that makes for war, 
that all may live as members of your family. 
Lord, hear us. 
**Lord, hear our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Here would be read specific prayers for the services, ships, military units, associations and kindred organisations. 
This may be followed by a prayer for army, naval or airforce personnel if the service is attended by one service only.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

As most service personnel only know the older version of the Lord’s prayer, the modern ELLC translation should be printed, with appropriate acknowledgment, if it is to be used.

**THE ROLL OF HONOUR [if appropriate]**

**THE LAYING OF WREATHS**

**THE ODE**
They were young and straight of limb, true of eye.
They were staunch to the end.
They fell with their face to the foe.................
They shall not grow 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.
We will remember them.
Lest we forget.
Lest we forget.

13 THE LAST POST

14 SILENCE

15 THE LAMENT  [This may be played on the pipes, if available.]

16 THE ROUSE

17 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

18 WORD OF MISSION

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted,
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

19 BLESSING

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.
Additional Material for Anzac Day

A PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in the time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace. Give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

A MEDITATION OF REMEMBRANCE

The young service people who have died do not speak today. Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses. Who has not heard them? They speak in the silence and when the clock strikes eleven. They say to us: We were young and happy then. We have died, please remember us. They say: We have done what we could, but until wars are finished, no one can know what our lives are really worth.

They say: Our deaths are not ours, they belong to you; only you can give them meaning. They say: Whether our lives are for peace and a new hope, or for nothing, depends on you alone. It is for you to decide. They say: We give you our deaths, please give them meaning. We were young. We have died. Please remember us.

A PRAYER FOR TRUST

Lord God, you are a refuge and strength for us, a helper close in time of distress. We shall trust and not be afraid. When the foundations of our lives are shaken, we shall trust you. When familiar landmarks of life disappear, we shall trust you. When confusion threatens, we shall trust and not be afraid. For you, Lord, are with us and we remember what you have done. When we were lost, Jesus said, ‘I am the way.’ When we were overcome by the pointlessness of it all, Jesus said, ‘I am the truth.’
When death and destruction had done their worst,  
Jesus said, ‘I am the life.’  
Lord, teach us to trust and not be afraid.  
Amen.

AN ANZAC REQUIEM

On this day, the ANZAC Corps received its baptism of fire and became one of the immortal names of history.  
We who are gathered here remember the comrades who went out and fought in the battlefields of Sudan, South Africa, the two World Wars, Korea, Borneo, Malaya, Vietnam and the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations and did not return.  
We wish to be worthy of their sacrifice.  
Let us once more dedicate ourselves to the service of the ideals for which they fought and for which they died.  
As the dawn is even now about to pierce the night,  
let the memory of their sacrifice inspire us to work for the coming of new light to the dark places of the world.

AN ANZAC DAY POEM

It’s just a simple service in a little place I know,  
when steady stars are paling and the sleepy earth wakes slow,  
with grassy smell of morning in a little town at dawn.  
There isn’t any grand parade of marching or a band,  
but a little group of blokes who watch and think and stand.  
There isn’t any bugler to play a sad ‘Last Post’  
but from the midst of memories, the past steals like a ghost.

And all the intervening years the busy mind will bridge,  
to deserts harsh, the beaches cold and ragged jungle ridge,  
to laughter, fear, a thousand things, the faces and the jokes,  
and how it all comes back again just standing with the blokes.

It’s just a simple service while the dawn is breaking red,  
it’s not the words a fellow hears, but those that stay unsaid.  
It’s not the glow of glory that the fleeting moment lends,  
it’s the memories in the morning - of your friends.
Remembrance and Memorial Services

Introduction

This section contains three services:

- A service suitable for Remembrance Day or a Remembrance Service for a particular client or event;
- A service suitable for use in the dedication of a memorial or a memorial plaque; and
- A service suitable for an annual Memorial and Dedication Service at a previously dedicated memorial.

All three services can be used in a military or non-military setting depending on the requirements of the situation. If there is to be a military style prelude and postlude to the services, then the guide in the Basic Military Service Structure, 1-4 and 18-22, may be used. The services can be used as written or developed for either parish or military use.
A Service of Remembrance

1 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

2 A PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Eternal God,
before whom generations rise and fall,
have mercy upon human folly and failure.
We acknowledge the power of human greed, fear and jealousy;
we acknowledge the aggression and pretence of nations.
Forgive those sins that lead to war.
Almighty God,
today we remember..........................
We remember the courage and patriotism of men and women
who resisted evil and defended freedom.
Help us to value the freedom eventually won
that we may use it wisely
so that people and nations may live together in harmony and freedom
and face the future with confidence and hope.
We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

3 HYMN

4 A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Sovereign Lord,
we pray for peace in this troubled world.

Prosper the activities of those who work to preserve human rights.
Promote the endeavours of all who work for reconciliation and justice.

Deliver us from the forces of malice, jealousy and fear.
Direct us into the ways of understanding, co-operation
and mutual respect.

Lord, bless all peacemakers.
Lord, sustain all peace keepers.

Break down all barriers of ignorance, suspicion and fear.
Build up those things that make for peace, justice and freedom.
O God, we fervently pray for peace within the human family,
in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

5 A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
God of eternity, Lord of the ages, 
we thank you that in times past, 
when darkness and evil enveloped the human family, 
ordinary men and women, from all parts of society, 
in many nations, responded to resist aggression, 
to fight evil, to stand for righteousness 
and to defend freedom.

We thank you for all who gave their lives 
in the service of their country, 
for all who suffered in battle, 
for all who were taken prisoner, 
for all wounded in body, mind or spirit.

We thank you for the contribution to this struggle 
made by men and women who stayed at home 
working in factories, offices and on the land. 
Lord, for all who defended freedom, we thank you.

O God, 
deliver us from the prison of hatred against the enemy, 
set us free from the powers of revenge, 
liberate us from bitterness and anger, 
help us to use the freedom defended 
and won in times past 
to make this world a happier and better place for all people. 
To God the Almighty, 
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 
we give praise, honour and glory 
now and always. 
Amen.

6 A READING OF SCRIPTURE

7 THE ADDRESS

8 AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

In the quietness of this time 
we remember the sounds of the battlefield, 
the despair of defeat, the deprivations of captivity.

We remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice, 
all who lie buried in distant lands.

We remember all who have been engaged in defending freedom, 
their bravery and dedication, 
their patriotism and humour, 
their resourcefulness and hope.

We remember sailors, soldiers and airmen, 
nurses, ancillary workers and civilians who suffered.
We remember ordinary Australians from such places as Albany or Atherton, from Balmain or Burnie, from Geelong or Gawler, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, lovers and relatives who served the nation in time of war. Lord, we remember them; we honour them; we are grateful; we are free.

9 THE LAYING OF WREATHS
10 THE ODE  [See p14]
11 THE LAST POST
12 SILENCE
13 ROUSE
14 HYMN
15 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
16 BLESSING
Dedication of a Memorial

This service is suitable for use in the dedication of a memorial or memorial plaque in memory of a unit, ship, service or association.

1 INVITATION

On this day, we join to remember all who have served with ........... and to honour the memory of those who have suffered and died while on operational service. We dedicate this memorial to them.

2 PRAYER based on PSALM 27:1-3

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life.

Of whom shall I be afraid?

When my enemies try to kill me

They shall stumble and fall.

If an army is camped against me

I shall not be afraid.

Even if war should come upon me

Still I will trust in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

3 HYMN

4 A PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Eternal God,
we pray for this land and people of Australia.
We thank you for this rolling brown land
washed by the waters of the southern seas.
We thank you for its bounty that has sustained us
and its beauty that has delighted us.

We praise you for this land under the Southern Cross
which has provided a new beginning in life
for so many people across the centuries;
for the freedom it has offered,
for the good life it has provided
and the peace which it enjoys.

Lord God, today we remember the men and women
who fought to preserve the integrity of our nation.
We honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice
and all who suffered in the defence of freedom
and the pursuit of peace.

Lord of the ages, we pray for this nation of Australia,
living in an ancient land,
that you will bless her people
and that we may work for a nation that is free, prosperous and caring.

To you O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we give honour, glory and praise,
now and always. Amen.

5 A READING OF SCRIPTURE

6 THE ADDRESS

7 HYMN

8 PRAYERS

Here may follow prayers of intercession such as those below, followed by unit or association prayers,
or prayers directly related to the memorial.

Loving Father of us all, we trust to your merciful keeping
all those who have died while serving in this .........................
Lord, hear us.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer from the effects of war.
Grant them your peace and healing strength;
and as they recall lives lost, may they be comforted
by their hope in the resurrection.
Lord, hear us.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May we be inspired by the courage and determination
of all who have served for the good of the nation,
especially those who served in peace and war in this.........
Lord, hear us.
Lord, hear our prayer.
Loving Father,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Give your Spirit of peace to all people
and remove from us the spirit that makes for war,
that all may live as members of one family.
Lord, hear us.
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we offer ourselves to you
and ask that you will enable us
to care for each other as you cared for the world.
**Lord, hear our prayer in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

8 THE LORD’S PRAYER
9 PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this memorial to the glory of God and in remembrance of those who laid down their lives in our defence, whom God has gathered into the peace of his presence.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

10 THE READING OF THE ROLL OF HONOUR
11 THE LAYING OF WREATHS
12 THE ODE
13 THE LAST POST
14 THE SILENCE
15 THE ROUSE
16 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
17 THE BLESSING
18 THE PRIVATE LAYING OF WREATHS
An Annual Dedication and Memorial Service

1 INTRODUCTION

We have come together, in the presence of Almighty God, in an act of memorial and dedication. We honour the comradeship, discipline and courage of all who have served with......................
We remember with pride the high traditions which apply to this arm of the service.

We pray that this service of worship today will inspire us to follow those traditions so that we can go forth boldly serving God and humanity.

2 HYMN

3 CALL TO REPENTANCE

Let us, who have served our country, ask God to forgive our sins, correct our faults and cleanse our souls so that we can honour God, our family and our friends in a better way.

God our Father,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed;
we have not loved you with all our heart;
we have not loved others as ourselves.
We ask you to have mercy on us,
cleanse us from all our sins and help us overcome all our faults,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon us and set us free from all sin, strengthen us to do his will and keep us in eternal life, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Before the declaration of forgiveness, the leader says a scripture sentence such as:
If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hear then Christ’s word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, you call people to serve you
in many different ways.
Bless the members of .........................
May we grow in the understanding
of the true meaning of freedom
and its value for the people of this world.

Develop within our ranks the true fellowship
that you wish us to possess.
May we always join cheerfully in friendship with all people
and have true sympathy for all who suffer.

Give to us all the strength to be physically strong,
mentally alert and morally straight,
so that, with your help, we may be better able to serve you,
our nation, Australia, and its people.

O God, our heavenly Father,
we thank you for those who have given their lives
that we might live in freedom.
Help us to feel the reality of the unseen world around us
which is often forgotten in the rush of daily life.

Today may we, who remember our fallen comrades,
rededicate our lives to the ideals of a free society,
so that wars may cease, old hatreds be forgotten
and the peace of God be allowed to reign.      AMEN.
They shall not grow 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.

We will remember them.

Lest we forget.
Lest we forget.

12 THE SILENCE

13 THE ROUSE

14 A SOLDIER’S PRAYER

Almighty God, whose command is over all,
and whose love never fails,
let me be aware of your presence
and obedient to your will.
Keep me true to my best self,
guarding me against sinning in thought,
in word and in deed,
helping me so to live
that I can stand unashamed before my fellow men and women,
my loved ones and you.
Protect those whom I love.

Give me the will to do my duty
and to accept my share of responsibility
with a strong heart and cheerful mind.
Make me considerate of those with whom I live and work,
and faithful to the duties my country has entrusted to me.
Let my uniform remind me daily of the traditions of the service
of which I am a part.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith.
If I am tempted to sin, make me strong to resist.
If I should miss the mark, give me the courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth,
and keep before me the life of Jesus Christ my Lord,
through whose help and example
I trust to obtain the answer to my prayer.       Amen.

15 HYMN

16 BLESSING  [As p14]
HYMNS SUITABLE FOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Australian Hymn Book

10  All people that on earth do dwell
16  The Lord’s my shepherd
21  I to the hills will lift my eyes
23  Now Israel may say
45  God is the refuge
46  O God our help in ages past
49  O God of Bethel
54  God moves in a mysterious way
74*  Eternal Father
205*  Mine eyes have seen the glory
358*  How glorious Zion’s courts
366  Behold the mountain of the Lord
494*  Lead kindly light
502  Abide with me
503*  O brother man
513*  Eternal ruler
540*  Father eternal
541*  Almighty Father, who dost give
542*  O God of earth

Hymns marked with an * are not currently listed for the revised Australian Hymn Book.
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