



# NORTHERN SYNOD E-NEWS

“Quote of the inspiration  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to  
dance  
Ecclesiastes 3:4”

## Dates & Events

- PPNA Meeting 15 - 16 April
- Milkarri Retreat 9 - 12 April
- Assembly 17 - 18 July
- Synod 4 - 9 October

## A Prayer for Nusa Tenggara Timur

Tatkala angin menyampaikan pesan nya dengan topan  
Tatkala gerimis menyampaikan kesan nya melalui badai  
Air mengalir tidak lagi bersahabat  
Angin bergeliat tidak lagi berdesah  
Manusia terhenyak  
Kita tersentak  
Tertunduk  
Terkapar  
Terkoyak

Tangis sedih mengiringi duka yang dalam  
Luka dalam menetes darah  
Berpisah tanpa kata kata

Nusa Tenggara Timur  
Ku peluk dalam doa dan duka  
Ku sebut nama mu  
Ku jemput  
dengan kepedulian

Nusa Tenggara Timur  
Tidak sendirian dalam penderitaan  
Ibu Pertiwi memeluk mu  
Anak anak nusantara menopang mu  
Tuhan pun ada bersama mu

Amin

When the wind conveyed its message with a  
hurricane  
When the drizzle conveyed its impression through  
the storm  
Running water is no longer friendly  
The wriggling wind was no longer sighing  
Human gasped  
We gasped  
Bowed  
Sprawling  
Ripped apart

Sad tears accompany deep grief  
The wound is dripping with blood  
Parting without words

East Nusa Tenggara  
I embrace in prayer and sorrow  
I say your name  
I'll pick you up  
with care

East Nusa Tenggara  
Not alone in suffering  
Mother Earth hugs you  
The children of the archipelago support you  
God is with you too

Amen

*Written by Rev. Dr Apwee Ting, Assembly National Consultant*

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## Assembly News

### Uniting Church National History Society Conference - "Growing Up Uniting"

You are welcome to attend the 3rd Biennial History Conference with guest speakers, Dr Deidre Palmer, "Roundtable Conversations with Uniting Church Young People", Associate Professor Ruth Powell, "Growing up Uniting: an inside out perspective and Rev. Dr William Emilsen and Dr Elizabeth Watson, "Growing up Uniting: Insights to ponder; lessons to heed" along with other speakers and events organised over the three day conference.

More information can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/growing-up-uniting-tickets-138188825497>

### Presidents Conference 2021

Called by God 2 - I am pleased to offer all members of the Uniting Church in Australia the chance to participate in my rescheduled President's Conference. - President of UCA, Dr Deidre Palmer

More information including registration can be found here: <https://uniting.church/presidents-conference-2021/>



### Semester 1 2021 dates

Date	Location
Feb 21	Nightcliff Uniting Church
March 21	Casuarina Uniting Church
April 18	Karama Uniting Church
May 16	Darwin Congress Ministry* @ Nungalinga College
June 20	Darwin Memorial Uniting Church
July 18	Trip to Kakadu and joining with Jabiru Uniting Church*

*\* To be confirmed*

If you are looking to join in with other UCA youth, then remember to save the date for Testify!



### Conclusion Service of Jemma Whittaker

After a long time working with the Northern Synod, Jemma Whittaker will be concluding her work.

Jemma has held the position of Media Communications officer (formely) and Youth Ministry officer. She has offered her skills in many areas of the Northern Synod, and we wish her the best in her future endeavours.

Her conclusion service will be on 18th April at Karama Uniting Church.

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## Milkarri Retreat

**Jeremiah 9: 16-21** calls for the most skillful “wailing women to come” and to “teach your daughters how to wail”.

This is the scripture that has guided the planning for a Women’s Retreat to be held at Riyala from Friday 9 April until Monday 12 April 2021. This retreat is highly significant. Nothing like it has occurred before. Our people are suffering for many reasons. We believe we are being called to work with Garray Jesus to bring healing to our people and our land through Milkarri. We have been inspired by Jeremiah 9:16-21. We want to see repentance, renewal, restoration, unity & peace now and in future generations.

The retreat is calling women to meet together to revive the traditional role that women have through wailing (Milkarri). We have commitments to attend from seven expert wailing women (liya milkarrimirr miyalkurruwu) and men (manikaymirr dirramu) to support them with bilma and yidaki. They will be teaching traditional Milkarri and include Garray as the basis for new Milkarri manikay in different languages.

We also have registrations from four groups of young women from Galiwin’ku (27 young women and some girls) to learn from, and be mentored by, the liya milkarrimirr miyalkurruwu.

The retreat has been financially supported by the Arnhemland Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) and MAF and underwritten by the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) and the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Dr Kathy Guthadjaka AM

*(The retreat will occur on from 9th to 12th of April)*

## Ordination of Richard Telfer



After a period of discernment, Richard Telfer will be ordained as a Minister of the Word on 15th April. The event will be at the Darwin Memorial Uniting Church at 7PM.

Richard Telfer completed his placement with Palmerston Uniting Church after being there as a supply pastor prior. He has been with Palmerston Uniting Church since 2017, and we will continue to support Richard in his future ministry.

## Synod Prayer Meetings

The Synod Prayer Network meets weekly each Wednesday at 10am at the Northern Synod office and via zoom. Our group in the office is not large, but earnest prayers are offered by those present (and via zoom), including regulars like our Moderator Rev Thresi Mauboy, NRCC Presbytery Minister Rev Jo Mar, Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji, Mel Quilliam, Jemma Whittaker and Stuart McMillan. Our prayers are sometimes in language – what a joy!

We have planned a prayer calendar to focus on different aspects of UCA life in the Northern Synod, to fulfill the vision of building connections between individuals, congregations and agencies across our vast Synod. So far this year we have had prayers via zoom from Broome, Mowanjum and Alice Springs, and on different weeks we've had prayer points offered for Darwin, West Kimberley, UAICC and chaplaincy. Our focus next week is East Arnhem.

We are endeavouring to have a wider reach and participation by inviting different leaders for each week, and each week having a different focus. That is our goal. The zoom meeting link will remain the same, regardless of where the leader is.

The link is:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84536180230?pwd=bEhjWHQ2K3hndW9ZdIYzWFU3Rno2dz09>

Meeting ID: 845 3618 0230

Passcode: 449223 One tap mobile

+61280156011,,84536180230#,,,,\*449223# Australia

+61370182005,,84536180230#,,,,\*449223# Australia

The four main areas that will focus our prayers are:

- Northern Synod (usually the first Wednesday of each month)
- Congregations and Faith Communities by Region (East Arnhem, West Arnhem, Darwin, Kimberley and Centre/APY). In the spirit of covenanting, we have not divided into PPNA and NRCC, but rather, regions that incorporate both. "Congregations and Faith Communities" will be our focus on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month.
- Life Stages i.e. children, youth, young adults, parents, grandparents, singles (usually the 3rd Wednesday each month).
- UCA Assembly (when there's a 5th Wednesday in the month; there are 3 in 2021).

The 2021 prayer calendar is on a separate page. We are really keen for people throughout our Synod to participate directly in the prayer meetings (in person or via zoom), or to suggest prayer points for their region/agency. Please phone or email to let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Also, if you or someone in your congregation is unsure how to participate in a prayer group, I can forward you some "Prayer Bites" on video that explain what prayer is and how to pray.

Yours in Christ,

Ros

Roslyn McMillan 0438 831 016

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# Notice of changes to BLM Webinars in March & April:

In respect of Palm/Passion Sunday  
& Holy Week in lead up to Easter  
there will be **no BLM Webinar on Sun 20 March.**

Instead we urge churches, groups, and individuals to mark  
**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
on Sun 21 March.

In 1966 the UN established this international day in recognition  
of the fact that racism is a global reality. Racism exists in both church  
and society and many churches have declared racism  
to be a sin. This is an opportune moment, therefore for churches  
and peoples of faith to remember the importance of racial justice,  
reflect on God's gift of human diversity, and consider actions  
to challenge and end racism and discrimination.

For racial justice resources and programs please contact:  
[ksa@lutheran23@gmail.com](mailto:ksa@lutheran23@gmail.com)



## Next BLM Webinar

### Panellists:

Franka Brunk

Emma Jackson

Rev Tsalalula Aaga Nelson

Rev. Dr. Kathleen A. Wolfe-Gillman

**Sunday 18 April, 2021**

**1500-1615H AEST**

Monday April 19th is **ASHWED** Day  
hence our Hebrew change

**Online**

**Facebook Live, LinkedIn, YouTube  
& Zoom**

### Register

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87136521538?pwd=T1BQUzgva2dXUFZ%alpRczJOTUpsQT09>

Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87136521538?pwd=T1BQUzgva2dXUFZ%alpRczJOTUpsQT09>



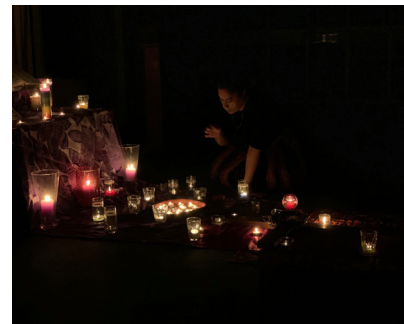
### Easter!

In this issue of the E-news, let's take a look at how the congregations in the Northern Synod celebrated Easter. Last year, we were unable to gather together because of the pandemic.

#### Nightcliff Uniting Church

Nightcliff Uniting Church began by observing Holy Week praying every single night from Monday to Wednesday at 7 PM. On Good Friday, we had a 10am Service.

We had Holy Saturday Stations of the Cross, an Easter Dawn Service, and at 10am an Easter Sunday Service. We were joined by Tongans throughout the whole period from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. Karama Indonesian UC joined NUC for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday evening service, and Sunday Dawn Service. Unfortunately, the rain meant our Dawn Service could not be completed but at least our Cross was up on the foreshore and was left there all Sunday.



#### Living Water Uniting Church

Living Water gathered at 9am on Good Friday for a reflective service of bible readings and some songs. Once this shortened service was finished, we met in our car park with the Bush Church & Catholic Parish for The Way of The Cross. Together, the three churches of Humpty Doo proceeded along Challoner Circuit following a large cross carried by people and we paused at different places to reflect on the events of the day of Jesus crucifixion. We concluded at the Village Green under the shade of trees sharing hot cross buns and cold water.

Our Easter Day service included the baptism of two infants from the congregation and following the service those who were able to stay shared a special lunch prepared by some Ni-Vanuatu men who work locally as seasonal workers. Using the Vanuatu method of underground cooking, the preparations on the Saturday afternoon took six hours and so for Sunday lunch we were treated to a meal of delicious pork and vegetables.

A wonderful feast of celebration enjoyed by all!





## Darwin Memorial Uniting Church



*Dawn Service 2021 - it was little Darwin cool! - DMUC Facebook*

## Alice Spring Uniting Church



*Photo taken by Kerry Lowing*

### Mparntwe – Alice Springs Holy Week 2021

It was on a Sunday morning, we imagined Jesus driving through the Gap in a borrowed Troopy, diffusing conflict at Heavitree Gap pub; enjoying kids waving footy flags at Traeger Park. Then came Jesus weeping with the sorry camp in the Hospital carpark. Finally walking to check out the Church in the Mall. What a surprise for the small Arrernte gathering for worship when Jesus looked around before returning to camp under stars. Why was this Gap named Heavitree we wondered?

It was from Monday to Thursday, in the forecourt and in our homes that we prayed till Friday morning, a huge wooden cross was carried and laid in the centre of the church. To the harrowing beat of a drum, three nails were hammered and through the eyes of Mary Magdalene, we imagined such love and sorrow and laid our burdens down. The cross was lifted up in the Mall for passers-by to see.

Early on the Sunday, groups gathered in the morning gloom to await a brilliant Sunrise, at Eastside, Campfire and Yalara, to shout the Easter acclamation and later to celebrate together the Easter feast! 'Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!' We go on our way rejoicing!

## Ministry Opportunities

### Northern Synod

#### ***- Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia - Presbytery Minister***

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

You may also contact **[helen.paine@ns.uca.org.au](mailto:helen.paine@ns.uca.org.au)**

### Wider Church

#### ***- Uniting Care Campaign Engagement Officer***

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

“We are seeking a highly motivated individual with appropriate skills to take the campaign to the Uniting Church community and ensure this campaign is successful.”

## Contact

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## From the Media team

Greetings everyone in the name of Christ!

Hope you are doing well!

As a reminder, this e-news is all shaped by you! If there is anything you want to see or read, please email me. This can be anything from pictures, stories or advertisements.

I wish you all the best for the year, and may God be with you in all that you do!

Cheers,  
Loui

Liusem Mauboy  
Media & Communications