**PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND HEALING - RECONCILIATION WEEK 3 JUNE 2018**

Heavenly Father we bring to you our prayers of lament for the suffering of Australia’s Indigenous peoples. Help us to stand in solidarity with them as they continue to cry under the burden of injustice.

We name the injustices that have wounded and afflicted our first people.

*Read each one separately, pause for a moment and ask congregation to respond with “Lord forgive us” after each one.*

* + Invasion of country Lord forgive us
  + Dispossession of land and identity Lord forgive us
  + Stolen Wages Lord forgive us
  + Stolen Generations Lord forgive us
  + Bonded labour Lord forgive us
  + Lack of recognition of The Frontier Wars Lord forgive us
  + Massacres and Genocide Lord forgive us
  + Loss of Language Lord forgive us
  + Lack of return of Ancestral Remains Lord forgive us
  + Lack of protection of Sacred Sites Lord forgive us
  + High rates of Prison incarceration Lord forgive us
  + High rates of Juvenile Detention Lord forgive us
  + Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Lord forgive us
  + Denied access to medical attention in custody Lord forgive us
  + The Northern Territory Intervention Lord forgive us
  + Forced removal from Homelands Lord forgive us
  + Poverty Lord forgive us
  + Racism Lord forgive us
  + The New Stolen Generation Lord forgive us
  + Short life expectancy Lord forgive us

Lord we know your heart breaks over these injustices. Open our eyes to the situation around us and show us how we can best respond. Reveal any unconscious racial bias & darkness in our own hearts and replace it with the light of your love. Show us how to build bridges and friendships with our aboriginal brothers and sisters.

Let your healing power flow through this land and give us a shared vision for the future.

Let us know say together the prayer that Jesus taught us……………