

You are warmly invited to attend

# An Ecumenical Service

for

The Opening by Commissioners of

THE FORTY SEVENTH  
TASMANIAN PARLIAMENT

9.30am, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Please bring this order of service with you.

The Cathedral Church of St. David



# Introduction

*Please stand at the entry of the Procession.*

As we gather to pray at the 47<sup>th</sup> Sitting of the Tasmanian Parliament and sing the National Anthem we acknowledge the Mouheneener people, the traditional custodians of this meeting place.

# The National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice  
For we are young and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair!  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
"Advance Australia Fair!"

# The Welcome

*The Very Reverend Richard Humphrey, The Dean of Hobart*

We gather today giving thanks for the freedom and security that we enjoy in Tasmania. We are grateful that we can express this freedom through a democratic process free from intimidation and corruption to elect our members of Parliament as a reflection of the will of the people of this State to whom they are responsible and whom they are to serve.

Yet the Scriptures teach that all authorities that exist have been established by God. Those who exercise authority should do so recognising to whom they are ultimately responsible. We the people should also honour and submit to them recognising whose authority they have.

For this reason St. Paul teaches the importance of prayers being made for all in authority that we may live in security, safety and holiness.

It is right then that we join together to pray that those who serve us in the Parliament assembling today will do so with wisdom and compassion, with decisions moulded by God's word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

We need to pray that its members will be kept from corruption and self serving and so uphold the Constitution and Laws of this State. We look for them to advance education, health care and protection of the environment; to promote healthy relationships and human rights and responsibilities, to curb the social ills of poverty, homelessness and addictions to gambling, alcohol and drugs; and encourage a caring society which welcomes the outcast and refugee and provides for the elderly and disadvantaged.

## The Litany of Confession

As we desire and pray for a more just, fair and generous society we recognise our failure to live out these ideals.

*After silence, there follows:*

For accepting life yet living it without you,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For living without concern for others,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For tolerating oppression, injustice and wrong,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For disobeying your will and commandments,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For refusing to love and forgive others,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For turning the world to our own purposes and desires,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

May Almighty God grant us forgiveness of our sins, courage to amend our lives, and the grace of His Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Hymn

O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise.

*Please sit at the end of the hymn*

# The First Reading: 1Kings 3:2-14

*Read by Hon David Bartlett MP, Premier of Tasmania*

<sup>3</sup> Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. <sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup> I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. <sup>14</sup> If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

For the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 1

*Read by Len Freedman of the Hebrew Congregation*

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:  
nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

2 But their delight is in the law of the Lord:  
and on that law will they ponder day and night.

3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:  
that yield their fruit in due season.

4 Their leaves also shall not wither:  
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:  
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

6 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement:  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

7 For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:  
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

## The Second Reading: Philippians 2:3-11

*Read by the Hon Tania Rattray MLC, Member for Apsley, Legislative Council*

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## The Address

*The Very Reverend Richard Humphrey, The Dean of Hobart*

## Anthem: Lead Me Lord

*SS Wesley*

*Sung by the choirs of St. Michael's Collegiate and The Hutchins School*

## The Prayers

*Please kneel or be seated as is your custom*

### For Peace

*Led by the Rev'd Carol Bennett, Uniting Church*

Let us pray for peace in our world

*Silence*

God of the nations, whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world. Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all and banish from them the spirit that makes for war, that all races may learn to live as members of one family.

Lord in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Hear our prayer.**

## For all in Authority

*Lead by Major Graeme McClimont, The Salvation Army*

Let us pray for good Government and those in authority

*Silence*

God from whom all authority flows give your Spirit of justice and truth to our governments and all those who frame our laws. Give them wisdom and skill, imagination and energy that they may with clarity promote a just society which deals equally with the poor and the wealthy. May all who serve in public life be protected from corruption and the temptation of self serving and work for the common good.

Lord in the name of Christ whose greatness was shown in humble service.

**Hear our prayer,**

## For the Tasmania

*Lead by Fr Mike Delaney, President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches*

Let us pray for Tasmania

*Silence*

Bountiful God we give thanks for this our State, for its beauty and bounty. We pray that you bless its people that we may grow in prosperity and peace, with all finding meaningful employment or vocation. May we be enriched with bonds of friendship and compassion that will deepen our common life, make us generous to others and welcome all those who come to our State. Enable us by your grace to be good stewards of all creation that we may pass on what you have entrusted to us to those who come after.

Lord in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

**Hear our prayer.**

## For those in Need

*Lead by Fr Aidan Kay, Representing the Catholic Archbishop of Hobart*

Let us pray for those in need

God of all compassion who desires leaders to remember the cause of the poor and the widow give us the will to care for those disadvantaged in our society. We pray for those living with disability or chronic disease, struggling with mental health or addictions, and for the long term unemployed. We pray for those agencies that care for them that they may generously supported.

We also pray for those who are sick and on our own hearts and minds.

Lord in the name of Jesus, who showed your healing power.

**Hear our prayer.**

## In Remembrance

*Led by the Dean*

We recall with thanksgiving the lives and faithful service of all who have represented the people of Tasmania in the Parliament of this State praying that their examples may inspire us and their fellowship strengthen us.  
Lord in the name of Jesus who conquered death.

**Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

All these our prayers we bring together as we pray in the words our Saviour taught us, saying:

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
Now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Prayer for the Opening of Parliament

*The Right Reverend John Harrower, Bishop of Tasmania:*

Most gracious God, ruler of the nations, we pray for the Parliament of this State, its members and officers.

Direct their work and influence their decisions  
to the advancement of your glory,  
and the safety and welfare of this State and Nation  
so that peace and happiness, truth and justice,  
may be established among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray together in dedication as we undertake our appointed tasks:

**Teach us, gracious Lord,  
to act justly  
love mercy  
and walk humbly with you  
as we follow the path of service shown by Christ  
on the way to your eternal kingdom. Amen.**

# Hymn

Lord of creation to you be all praise!  
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways.  
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,  
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power I give you my will,  
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.  
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,  
and held in your keeping my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom I give you my mind,  
rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find.  
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard,  
is taught by your spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart,  
I praise and adore you for all you impart.  
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,  
your presence to shield me whatever betide.

Lord of all being I give you my all,  
if e'er I disown you I stumble and fall.  
But led in your service, your word to obey,  
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

# The Blessing

*Bishop Harrower*

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage and hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil, but strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honour all people. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

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