

# Harmony Day

## 21 March 2022 Leader's notes



### Overview

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Harmony Week includes 21 March, which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This date is also recognised as Harmony Day.

The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs'. The day aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster a sense of belonging for everyone.

God loves all people and longs for every person to be valued, respected and included. Many Salvation Army mission expressions across Australia use Harmony Week to connect with their community in creative ways.

### Scripture (NIV)

*"And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt."* **Deuteronomy 10:19**

*"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."* **1 Peter 3:8**

*"People will come from the east and west and north and south and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God."* **Luke 13:29**

*"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."*

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

*"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."*

**Revelation 7:9**

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, You create all people in your image. We thank you for the amazing variety of races and cultures in our world, and the knowledge and colour this brings to our lives.

We pray that you would give us a spirit of openness and hospitality towards people, which builds connections between all members of society. Please forgive us for the arrogance, fear and selfishness that keep us distant from people who are different to us.

We ask that you enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children.

We pray that people from all nations would come to know you. We pray that people from all nations, tongues and tribes would declare that, "Salvation belongs to our God." Together, as one body, we worship you. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

### Facts about diversity in Australia

- 86 percent of Australians agree that multiculturalism has been good for Australia.<sup>1</sup>
- Apart from English, the most commonly spoken languages in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese and Vietnamese.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 6 million Australians were born overseas. Nearly one in five of have arrived since the start of 2012.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.8 percent of Australians identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Islander origin.<sup>2</sup>
- In Australia, "there are more than 250 Indigenous languages including 800 dialects. Each language is specific to a particular place and people."<sup>3</sup>

### Song suggestions

Song	Artist	Where to find it
Who You Say I am	Reuben Morgan, Ben Fielding	<a href="https://songselect.ccli.com/7102401">Songselect.ccli.com/7102401</a>
As I Am	Aodhan King, Melodie Wagner, Michael Fatkin	<a href="https://songselect.ccli.com/7147219">Songselect.ccli.com/7147219</a>
For the One	Jenn Johnson, Paul McClure	<a href="https://songselect.ccli.com/7077180">Songselect.ccli.com/7077180</a>
Build My Life	Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett	<a href="https://songselect.ccli.com/7070345">Songselect.ccli.com/7070345</a>
Servant Song	Richard Gillard	SASB1005; Tune Book 352
God of the Poor	Graham Kendrick	SASB998; Tune Book 638
We Are the Hands of Christ	David Rutherford Fraser	SASB687; Tune Book 147 or 150

### For more ideas see:

- The Salvation Army Songbook: Please note, tunes indicated are usually the most common, though it can be helpful to compare other similar tunes that fit the lyrics by using the Metrical Index in the Songbook, Tune Book or at USA West Mobile Songbook, <https://mobileapps.usawest.org/SongbookPlusBookSelection.aspx>
- SongSelect database: [songselect.ccli.com/search/themes](https://songselect.ccli.com/search/themes)
- Worship Together: [worshiptogether.com/song-search/](https://worshiptogether.com/song-search/)
- We Are Worship: [weareworship.com/songs/](https://weareworship.com/songs/)

#### References

1. Based on data collected July 2021 by the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute, <https://scanloninstitute.org.au/mapping-social-cohesion-2021/>
2. Based on data from the Australia Bureau of Statistics 2016 census, <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/lookup/media%20release3>
3. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), [aiatsis.gov.au/explore/living-languages](https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/living-languages)