



ABORIGINAL SUNDAY SERVICE - SUNDAY, 23 JANUARY 2022

History of Aboriginal Sunday

Read the following:

On January 26 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship (though it would take another 30 years).

*Then, William Cooper asked the Australian Church to set aside **the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday.***

Aboriginal Sunday is a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced.

In 2018, Brooke Prentis and Common Grace with the support of Aunty Jean Phillips, reclaimed William Cooper's original Aboriginal Sunday concept, and formalised his desire to see individual congregations pause to commemorate this day and action.

The Common Grace movement encourages individual congregations to hold an Aboriginal Sunday service and each year provides a free Church Resource Toolkit developed by Aboriginal Christian Leaders to equip churches and faith communities to do so.

William Cooper's legacy lives on in many ways. His initiative was eventually moved to the first Sunday in July and is now the start of NAIDOC Week when Aboriginal culture is celebrated nationally.

Today, you are responding to William Cooper's call to action and you are a part of making his dream of Aboriginal Sunday a reality.