

The Adelaide Declaration

We Christian people who dwell within the City of Adelaide, in the State of South Australia, and others in our great island continent and beyond, sincerely subscribe to this solemn statement, declared at the Adelaide Town Hall on Monday 20th June, in the year of our Lord 2016

Almighty God, we give thanks for our beloved Kurna people who occupied the Adelaide plains for years untold, and there exercised your calling to name all your works of creation, and to steward the land.

We give thanks to you, Lord God, for your hand of blessing upon the City of Adelaide, named after a truly gracious Queen - whose Christian faith helped her to set things aright, in a time of great civic unrest.

We claim the aspirational statement given in 1827 by Robert Torrens, who told the House of Commons that *in the formation of South Australia we are co-operating in the scheme of Providence and are the favoured instruments in causing Christian civilisation to 'cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!'*

We give thanks to you, Lord God, that South Australia was established as a *great and free Colony*, in which all of our indigenous people would be *equally entitled to the privileges of British subjects* - as declared in *The Proclamation* issued by Governor John Hindmarsh in 1836, though that provision was seldom applied.

Father, we give thanks that by your grace South Australia became the first place in the world to give all adult males the right to vote (in 1856), and was second only to New Zealand in granting the vote to women (in 1894), including many aboriginal women.

We note with gratitude that the Australian Constitution was drafted in large measure here in Adelaide; that the Commonwealth Parliament employed standing orders which were taken from South Australia; that the first President of the Senate was the South Australian parliamentarian Richard Chaffey Baker; that Adelaide provided Sir Frederick Holder to be the first Speaker of the House of Representatives; and that the returning officer for its first election was the South Australian electoral reformer William Boothby.

We give you thanks for Adelaide's role, through the lawyer Patrick McMahon Glynn, to insist at the 1897 convention in Adelaide that the emerging Commonwealth Constitution must include a Preamble which still today asserts that *the people ... humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God have agreed to unite*

We give thanks that Adelaide was instrumental to promote *The Lord's Prayer* during the 1970s, when a musical rendition that was sung by Sister Janet Mead achieved worldwide acclaim.

Yet we recognise how South Australia has led the way in wrongdoing, especially as we became the first Australian state to legalise abortion in certain circumstances (in 1970) and have lost so many unborn.

We confess our failure to share the good news of Jesus Christ, by whose name only we must all be saved. We have not shared his treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Hence our communities are greatly suffering from gambling addictions, substance abuse, violence and family breakdown. We have especially not upheld and defended your gift of marriage, by which man and woman may covenant together in lifelong unity to give testimony to Christ and the Church, and to bring forth Godly offspring. We have not taken up our responsibility and privilege to bless the community, neither praying adequately for its leaders, nor sharing with them the wisdom of God so desperately needed in the world that you love and for which Christ died.

Forgive us, Lord, and set us again upon the right path - for Christ's sake, and in his name.

Forgive us, Lord, and set us again upon the right path - for Christ's sake, and in his name.

Forgive us, Lord, and set us again upon the right path - for Christ's sake, and in his name. Amen.