

NAIDOC Messy Church

(adapted by Marike Jago from Messy church session on Christian Unity, by churches together:

https://www.ctbiarchive.org/pdf_view.php?id=626)

Try to get in touch with your local indigenous community and invite them to join you/contribute to the celebration.

These groups might be able help you find someone:

Common Grace,

<https://www.commongrace.org.au>

Australians Together,

<https://australianstogether.org.au>

Grasstree Gathering

<https://www.grasstreegathering.org.au>

A Good Time to do this is during or around NAIDOC week which is usually the 2nd week in July but it could really be done any time. Check out here other dates important for our Indigenous Communities we should be aware of:

<https://indigenousportal.eq.edu.au/resources/dates/Pages/dates.aspx>

NAIDOC MESSY CHURCH SESSION IDEAS:

Sign In Activities:

Aboriginal Flag/ Torres Strait Islander Flag Hand prints or Puzzle.

You need:

Big sheets of butcher paper or similar with outline of flags, paint, paint brush, paper plates, water bucket for cleaning hands, Marker to sign name

Or printed aboriginal flag with black, red and yellow pieces cut up into jigsaw pieces, glue, marker to sign name

Aboriginal Colour in sheets:

Access here:

<https://www.brisbanekids.com.au/aboriginal-colouring-pages/>

NOTE:

Start with: Acknowledgement of Country

For more info and example please see here:

<https://www.commonground.org.au/learn/acknowledgement-of-country>

UNITY ACTIVITIES:

Wooden joints

Find someone competent to teach basic carpentry. Have small pieces of wood to join together in different ways. Which technique is the strongest? What sorts of things keep churches 'stuck together', not falling apart?

Suggestions: nailed, nut and bolt, glue, screw, staple, tied together with string, sticky tape, chewing gum, sticky tak, wet Weetabix, treacle.

Bridge building

Choose some materials for bridge building (such as marshmallows and spaghetti / drinking straws and sticky tape / junk) and see who can make the strongest / longest bridge.

What builds bridges between Christians?

Fruit kebabs

Cut up and add different types of fruit to a wooden cocktail stick.

The church is like a strange tree that grows all sorts of different kinds of fruits! Just like fruits look different from each other, we all are different and so are there lots of ways of worshipping God.

Sharing game

Two competitors or teams face each other across a floor space (on which may be a tarpaulin or other waterproof covering). In front of each are containers – pots, jars or buckets some of which are empty and some of which are full. At the signal, each team tries to fill up all the opposite team's containers that are empty. After a set time (about 1 minute, depending on age of participants) see which team has managed to share most of its resources with the other team. Talk about how different this game is from the way the world often works, where people try to snatch off each other instead of give to each other. God loves his churches to share what they have with other churches and with the world. When one church in the Bible was starving, another sent money to the Christians there. And he will always come along and fill up our buckets from his never-ending supply when we need it!

NAIDOC Specific Activities:

STAMPING AUSSIE RAINBOW ANIMALS

Create an Australian Scene by using your finger prints and creating animals with them.

Have a couple of rainbow inkpads available. Have fun printing designs on to paper with a native scenes (billabong/Uluru/beach/etc) in the background or plain paper if you prefer.

Think about how blessed we are to live in this beautiful country. Let's make sure we are respectful to others, those who were here before us and let's take care of the world God has given us all to share together.

LEMON MYRTLE BISCUITS

You need lots of ingredients joining together to make something delicious like these biscuits! Each ingredient is important in order for the end result to be yummy and beautiful!

Just like God wants different people, different cultures & the different churches to join together and bring something wonderful to the world.

Pre-make these using Australian animal cookie cutters and let the kids decorate them or make, cut & bake them with children:

Lemon Myrtle Shortbread:

250g Butter (or coconut oil)

115g Caster Sugar

125g Corn Flour

250g Plain Flour (or gluten free flour)

1 scant teaspoon Lemon Myrtle

Method:

1

Heat oven to 160°C

2

Cream butter and sugar together until light & fluffy

3

Add Lemon Myrtle and Flours

4

Mix until combined

5

Turn out onto floured board

6

Wrap in cling film and refrigerate for 30 minutes

7

Roll out mixture on floured board to 1cm thick

8

Cut in shapes with cookie cutter and place on prepared baking tray evenly spaced

9

Bake until lightly golden

DOT PAINTING

As you do this beautiful dot painting think about all the different colours there are in this world. What's your favourite colour? People have different favourite colours but that doesn't make one colour better than another: they're just different and that's fine.

See how to do here: <https://thecraftyclassroom.com/2012/06/12/australian-dot-painting/> need:

Australian Animal colouring in sheets (find your own or use website above)

Cotton tips

Wooden sticks

Paint

WATERCOLOUR MINGLING/ TEXTURED TURTLES

Turtles are very important in Torres Strait Islander Culture and in Some Aboriginal cultures as well.

Just as these turtles are made of different colours and patterns so is the world. We all have different back grounds, customs, things we like, music, etc. God created us that way and only together we make a beautiful and varied pattern.

You need:

A4 sized sheets of paper

Cut out paper turtles, different sizes if you wish (see pattern)

Cling wrap

Water colour (different colours)

Paint brush

Water

Glue

Put a sheet of cling wrap on the table, make it a bit bumpy

Put some blue/green watercolour all over cling wrap with paint brush

Press plain sheet of paper onto king wrap to print water pattern

Then repeat using different colours (feel free to experiment and mix) and spread on cling wrap, this time press turtles down to give them an interesting textured print.

Glue turtles onto water print. Let dry.

If you prefer you can use blue paper for the water and only print on turtles to reduce drying time.

TORRES STRAIT LEI MAKING:

Make some leis or crowns with real or fake flowers, straws, leaves, paddle pop sticks, folded paper for crowns, decorations, etc.

DAMPER BAKING

Pre- make damper dough. Prepare squares of baking paper for kids to shape their damper on and write their name on. Bake and serve for dinner with soup.

Ingredients

- 250 g self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 25 g unsalted butter chilled cubed
- 175 ml milk

Method

- Mix the flour with the salt in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub it into the flour with the tips of your fingers, until it resembles fine crumbs.
- Stir in the milk with a round blade knife (butter knife) to make a soft, but not sticky dough.
- Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface and shape into a soft, smooth ball.
- Set the ball of dough onto a tray or baking sheet and flatten gently to make a round about 17cm across. Cut a deep cross in the dough and brush lightly with milk.
- Bake at 190C for 30 minutes until golden.
- Serve warm or at room temperature.

God has made so many wonderful things for us to eat. As you shape your damper bread let's think about that we are all created in God's image and are beautifully and wonderfully made. Let's remember that we are all important to God and let's make sure we share with and love each other.

ABORIGINAL RAIN STICKS:

Taken from: <https://cuttingandsticking.co/around-the-world-australia/>

You will need to get hold of some cardboard tubes. I used the tubes you find inside wrapping and other paper rolls and cut them down.

Firstly, the tube needs to be painted with a base colour and then the dots are applied once this is dry.

When working with Nursery and Reception age children I used some large round sponges that can be bought from Amazon and some art suppliers. These were great fun to use and easy for them to hold onto.

While waiting for the paint to dry I gave the children coloured paper circles on which they created dot patterns using felt tips. Once dry, we poured rice or lentils into the tube and attached the paper circles onto each end using elastic bands.

ABORIGINAL STORY TELLING

Print out a sheet with aboriginal signs.

Get children to copy them on either rocks or onto paper/ an Australian scene and tell their own story.

Celebration Ideas:

Talk about the NAIDOC Theme

Song Ideas:

Innanay Gapuana

Taba Naba

Our God is a Great big God

Big Family of God

Father Abraham

Story:

How the Emu got it's hump (Book: Milbi Darbarr) (can buy a copy from Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries, contact Rev Minniecon: 02 9552 4164, Office@glebechurch.org.au)

Or

The Rainbow that Nearly Wasn't - from

<https://ideas.brf.org.uk/the-rainbow-that-nearly-wasnt>

– a story in which the different colours of the rainbow argue that they and they alone should make up the rainbow. It's only when they see each other through God's eyes that they realise they are far more beautiful and useful when they all work together.

When I say...

red = fist in the air

orange = make a big round O shape with your hands

yellow = wavy hands like sunbursts

green = a pop with finger in mouth

blue = V sign with your fingers like hippies

purple = bow low

God rubbed his hands in glee. The terrible Flood was over! There were the animals coming out of the ark – trotting, wobbling, slithering, flying or trundling down onto the mountaintop! There was Noah and his family building the altar to say thank you for their rescue! And God had a lovely surprise ready for them. Something that would finish off their adventure with a beautiful ending that would be remembered for thousands of years to come. *But he would have to get a move on. The animals were really hungry.*

'Oh, colours!' called God. 'It's your big moment!'

The gorgeous colours appeared around God's throne. But God could see something wasn't right. Orange was scowling. Red was grumpy. Blue was kicking the floor. Green was in a strop. Yellow had turned his back on everyone else and Purple seemed about to burst into tears.

'What in heaven is going on?' demanded God, *looking worriedly down at the animals below. The crocodiles were looking at Noah in a way God didn't much like. 'I've got a brilliant job for you to do and you all look like the dog's breakfast. What's the matter?'*

The first colour to speak was Red.

'You said you want to put a bow in the sky,' she said. 'Well I think it should be red. Just red. Nothing but red. Don't mess about with this bunch of losers. Make it red.' 'Why?' asked God, *looking down at the crocodiles who had started creeping through the crowd of animals towards Noah.*

'Red is the boss of the colours. People really notice red. Red is hot and bright – the colour for fire and blood and traffic signs. If you want this bow to be noticed, you need it to be red.'

'I see,' murmured God.

'No! No! No! No!' squeaked Yellow. 'Your bow should be a beautiful yellow colour, Lord! Make it as yellow as the sunshine! As yellow as bananas! Make it bright and cheerful and shiny as me! Make it just yellow!'

'You are very beautiful,' agreed God, *watching the crocodiles hide behind the elephants whenever Noah glanced their way.*

'But you're not as important as me!' Purple said pompously. 'Look! It's obvious your bow should be purple. Purple is the colour of emperors and kings. Purple is the sign of the most important. If you want power, pick pure purple.'

God saw the crocodiles picking up speed.

'I do like purple,' he said.

'But you don't want a poxy purple bow!' shouted Green. 'Wheee! Look at me! Imagine a green bow in the sky! Now that would be really wow! Green is so zingy! So fizzy! So fresh! Like a bottle of green limeade sprayed across the sky. Don't mix me up with these other dull colours – make your bow green!'

'Oh please,' called Orange. 'It's so obvious that Orange is the colour you want. Orange like the sunrise. Orange is fruity and juicy and ripe! Make your bow orange, Lord!'

God saw the two crocodiles dodging round the kangaroos as they lumbered on towards Noah.

'You are so, like, unhip, man,' said Blue. 'It is so like, obvious that God's bow should be blue. Blue as the sea and sky, blue like rhythm 'n' blues. Blue like Sonic the Hedgehog blue. Blue is like the coolest colour in your box, Lord. I just know you're going to make your bow blue blue blue.'

Instantly all the colours started shouting at each other.

'Blue is boring!'

'Red is rubbish!'

'Purple's pathetic!'

'Yellow is so last year!'

'Green is gross!'

'Orange sucks!'

'Make your bow red! Blue! Yellow! Orange! Green! Purple!'

Down below on the mountain, the crocodiles tiptoed up behind Noah and opened their mouths ready for breakfast. God knew there was no time to lose. God raised one hand and spoke in a voice that no-one could disobey. 'Be quiet.'

When the colours had settled down, trembling, God smiled at them.

'You are all just what I want you to be. Each of you does a different job. Without you, I couldn't do this most important job of all. I need to give my people a sign of

my promise. I need them to know it is a perfect promise that will never be broken. I need them to know that it is for all people of all ages from all countries for all times. And so, my dear dear colours, I need you all. Please, just for a moment, look at each other through my eyes.

The colours looked at each other and, now they looked through God's eyes, saw how beautiful each of the others was. With a big smile, they stood together and together counted 3 2 1. Down below, Noah and all the animals *even the crocodiles* looked up in amazement. For there, between heaven and earth shone a radiant multi-coloured rainbow. Red orange yellow green blue purple – all the colours, all different, altogether.

And Noah turned to Mrs Noah. 'How about crocodile steaks for tea tonight, dear? Make it ... snappy.'

Meal:

Whatever you have, why not try serving it in such a way as makes people on a table share with each other – have a pot to share out from or a plate of something to pass round the table, rather than dishing up a plateful per person from a hatch. And point out that we're going to be sharing from one pot / plate today deliberately to show we want to look after each other, not just ourselves.

- We did soup and damper
- Another idea: family pizzas