**ANZAC DAY LITURGY 2012**

*Sacred Space: A bare cross, An Australian Flag, Candle, ANZAC symbol (slouch hat, boots, poppy etc) set up.*

**Slide 1: Title**

**Slide 2: Commemorative movie with music (***Plays as people enter in)*

**WELCOME**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Today we come together to solemnly remember Anzac Day. This is the day when Australians and New Zealanders honour those who served their countries by fighting at Gallipoli and in subsequent wars. We do not glorify war, but we remember with gratitude all those men and women who fought to protect our peace. War always brings suffering, death and lasting grief, so we pray for all those affected by wars then and now. This is also an occasion when we pray for peace: peace in our world and peace in our country, among the many diverse groups and religious traditions.

**RITUAL**

***Anzac Candle next to cross, Place poppies in a wreath around candle***

**PRAYER**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** God of peace, God of comfort,

We place this wreath at the foot of the cross

On which Jesus laid down his life for his friends,

That we may prayerfully honour all those

Who have laid down their lives for the protection and wellbeing of others.

We remember especially those men and women from our own community,

And those whose relatives are known to us here.

May the sacrifice of their lives stir us to work for peace

In our own land and throughout the world.

May all who grieve the loss of loved ones through war and oppression,

Find comfort in the hope of the new life

Won for us by Jesus your Son,

All: Amen.

**READING**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A reading from the Gospel according to John

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** We ask that you would remain now silent as the Last Post is playing. Use this time to reflect on the sacrifice that people made.

***The Last Post is played (embedded into PowerPoint):***

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** We pray for the Church, that it may always be a loving shepherd to its flock. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** We pray for leaders everywhere, that they may work constructively for peace in our world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**  We pray for those who suffer illness, injury or loss through war and displacement. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** We pray for all those who serve their countries in time of war, that they may rest in the promise of the Good Shepherd. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** We pray for this community, that we may be people who work for peace and justice. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

**FINAL PRAYER**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Loving God, we remember our history today, and those who served their country. Inspire us we pray, to work for peace in our world. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus your Son, our Good Shepherd.

All: Amen.

**FINAL SONG**

Choir to lead song