

**NCHS**



**NATIONAL CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY**

**AN INVITATION TO ALL MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS  
OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ACROSS AUSTRALIA  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY**

**WHEN?**

Sunday 5th February 2023.

**WHY?**

To mark the anniversary of the Christian Gospel being proclaimed for the first time on Australian soil on the 3 February 1788.

**HOW?**

By taking 5 minutes to read out to your congregations, as part of your normal services, the script on the following pages may help.

**LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AND GIVE THANKS**

Australia is a country that has been richly blessed by the goodness and mercy of God and much for which we should give him thanks. National Christian Heritage Sunday is an opportunity to not forget all his benefits to us and to celebrate the rich heritage of the Christian Gospel in this country.

**LET'S UNITE ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL CHRISTIAN  
HERITAGE SUNDAY ON 5th FEBRUARY 2023**



**(Suggested script to be read by Ministers, Pastors and church leaders of Christian churches as part of their normal Sunday services)**

**THE CELEBRATION  
OF  
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY  
TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL  
COMING FOR THE FIRST TIME TO AUSTRALIAN SOIL**

**Churches across the country today are celebrating the anniversary of the first known Christian Service held in Australia, which was conducted by the Reverend Richard Johnson on the 3 February 1788, the first Sunday after the First Fleet arrived on 26 January 1788.**

**His proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was based on**

**Psalm 116:12**

***“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?”***

**(AUSTRALIA – A COUNTRY RICHLY BLESSED)**

**Australia has been richly blessed by the goodness and mercy of God. There is so much as a nation, that we need to give thanks to our Heavenly Father as we reflect, on our parliamentary democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and worship, our legal system and the independence of our courts of law.**

**Today, on this anniversary may we pause and recognise the Lord’s benefits to this nation and give him thanks for our Christian heritage that has made Australia the great nation it is today.**

**(PRESERVING OUR NATION’S FUTURE)**

**As we look to the future may we seek together to preserve our Christian heritage. May we continue to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ for the good of all and the honour of his name, in the sure knowledge that:**

**“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11)**

**(PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING)**

**Let us pray**

**Our loving Heavenly Father we come before you individually and as a nation to thank you for your goodness to us, on this the anniversary of the first proclamation of your loving and merciful message of salvation, brought to this country by your servant the Reverend Richard Johnson and for the Christian faith that was established throughout this land by our pioneers.**

**(the Minister continues)**

**We thank you for your words in the Psalms that speak afresh to us today:**

*"We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,  
**his power, and the wonders he has done.***

*Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds  
but would keep his commands".  
(Psalm 78:4,7)*

Lord Jesus Christ we commit our lives afresh to you today  
and give you thanks for our nation as many in the past have done.

**To God be the Glory  
Amen**

**Clergy who wish to access further information on  
Australia's Christian Heritage  
should go to  
[www.chr.org.au](http://www.chr.org.au)**

**NATIONAL CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY IS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION  
AND WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY EACH YEAR**