**Australian Creed**

I believe in God the Father of us all,

who has given the earth to all people,

and I believe in people as the image of God.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

who came to encourage us and to heal us,

to proclaim the peace of God to humankind.

I believe in the Spirit of God,

who works in every man and woman.

I believe in the Church,

moved by the Spirit to serve all people.

I believe in Australians

in their courage and spirit of adventure

– in their perseverance and hard work

– in their ordinariness and at-home-ness

 – in their black Aboriginal beauty

– in their migrant struggles

– in their search for identity.

I believe in our responsibility for creation

– the trust of every mountain range

– of every forest

- of every harbour

– of every city

– of every plan to build a future.

I do not believe in the right of the strongest,

nor the power of the oppressors.

I do not believe that I can fight oppression far away

if I tolerate injustice here.

I do not believe that conflict and hunger

are inevitable and peace unattainable.

I do not believe that all suffering is in vain,

Nor that our dreams will remain dreams,

nor that death is the end.

But I dare to believe,

always and in spite of everything in a new humanity;

in God’s own dream of a new heaven and a new earth

where justice will flourish, and peace will reign,

in our land, in our world.

*The Australian Creed is taken from the Inclusive Language Project, PO Box 1400, Toombul Qld.*