

Pride Cup reflection 2017

May 7, 2017

I'm Rev Jennie Gordon, minister at Yarra Glen Uniting Church. It's my delight to be back here at the Pride Cup in 2017. Congratulations Yarra Glen! It's a wonderful act of inclusive love to celebrate our humanity and our diversity in this way. Shortly we will have a time of silence before the singing of the National Anthem. Let's use the time of silence to make a commitment to being kinder and more inclusive every day of our lives.

I want to acknowledge that Christian churches have not always been kind and inclusive to people who identify as LGBTI, in fact, some Christians and churches have been at the forefront of victimization and cruel, abusive action, and still are. For me - I know and follow a God who includes all people and loves all people and delights in our uniqueness and our diversity. I am sorry for the way people have been deeply hurt by the church and I will continue to speak out until all eyes and hearts are open to love for everyone regardless of their sexuality, gender, race or faith.

So, bless all who identify as LGBTI that they might be free to live with love and respect. We remember those who have been hurt by the homophobic actions of others, brothers and sisters who have taken their lives and those who live in pain.

Bless our society as we acknowledge that we still have a way to go to be communities where all people are free to be who they are. We remember those countries in the world where it is illegal to be openly gay, where homosexuality is seen as a crime that carries life imprisonment or the death penalty, where abuse and torture are commonplace.

Bless us all in our struggle to be fully human, to honor and respect each other, to stand up against words and actions that hurt, harm and isolate. The Pride Cup is an act of defiance against hatred and exclusion, may it be another step towards healing and wholeness for us all.
Now we will have a time of silence before the singing of the National Anthem.

Rev. Jennie Gordon m: 0416 152051
Yarra Ranges Parish – UCA