Earth, Fire and Water Ceremony

Indigenous Person

For thousands of years before recorded time, our people have walked on this EARTH, on their own country. Our relationship with the land is at the centre of our lives. Our country is our mother: in a sense our country is us.

FIRE is important to our people; our people could not do without it.

Fire means

the calling of people together

the gathering in a circle around the fire for cooking and eating and for warmth at night;

the gathering for ceremonies;

the gathering for story telling;

the place for being together.

Fire is at the heart of our Indigenous culture.

WATER is also important to our people.

In the driest part of the driest country, water is life-giving,

refreshing,

cooling

and cleansing

to our country and to us.
Indigenous Person

Earth, Fire and Water also have deep symbolism in our Christian heritage.

In the Old Testament LAND was God's promise to the Jewish people.

In the New Testament, Christian people are called to have a deep sense of care for land and all creation.

All creation and life looks forward to the promised land of heaven.

For Christians FIRE represents the light of Christ. The Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles at Pentecost as tongues of fire. We think of the flame of faith burning in people's lives.

WATER is the symbol of baptism, which gives us new life and hope and makes us one with Jesus and with each other.

Non-Indigenous Person

As Non-Indigenous and Indigenous people together,

let us have a sense of the importance of Dharawal country upon which we are standing.

Let us sense the land beneath our feet and know to whom it belongs.

(Pause)

Let us have a sense of the importance of water and fire - as Indigenous and Christian life symbols.

(Pause)

The cool, refreshing water; giving life to Indigenous and Non-indigenous alike. The water giving life to people in baptism.

(Pause)

The warm, inviting fire drawing us all, Indigenous and Non-indigenous, together. the light of Christ, the flame of the Holy Spirit, bringing us together in Jesus.

(Pause)
Indigenous Person

This container is filled with earth from our land.

This is our fire.

This coolamon is filled with water.

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate this earth, our land. (pause)

We invite you to take a moment and reflect on the importance of life-giving water. (pause)

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate the warmth of our fire that gives light and guidance. (pause)

Let us sense the warmth as a call to all people in this country to come together warmly, sharing our different stories and being together as one.