

Seeds of Grace



St Aidan's Uniting Church
16th July 2023

Call to Worship

Like a farmer sowing seed,
flinging it about –
left and right –
so does God share grace,
abundantly and with hope.

As we gather
let us worship
this God of grace.

Prayers

God of grace,
we come giving thanks for these signs of grace –
sacraments showing us something
of your nature.

But we confess
that we sometimes find it hard
to recognise your grace,
or we see your grace as something for “us”
and not for others.

Sometimes we forget
that you offer grace
and think we have earned your love,
so we justify our condemnation
of those who do not experience
a relationship with you.

Other times we cheapen your grace
because grace is in your nature,
so we fail to let it change us,
to show us a different way of being.

We know you forgive us,
and so we ask you
to shine your light into our lives

and help us to walk in your footsteps
and live in the Spirit.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

“Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” [Romans 8:1-2]

Know that you are loved and forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we come in this time of quiet
to name those who need special care,
knowing that you already know their needs
better than we ever can.

We pray for people
whose experience of your love
is like the seed sown on the path –
the people who are so badly hurt,
or so certain they are right,
or so driven by power,
that they cannot let your love
grow within their lives.

We pray for the people
whose lives are like the rocky ground,
who have so many pressures and uncertainties –
the cost of living,
the threat of homelessness,
or how to meet the needs of their children –
that they cannot grow in faith and hope.

We pray the people of thorny ground –

those whose life experiences
have taught them to put themselves
and their needs first,
to build a hard barrier that keeps others out,
and not care about the impact of their actions
on those around them.

We pray for the people of the good soil,
help them to bear the fruit of your love and grace
to share with their community
and your world.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

Like a farmer sowing seed,
flinging it about –
left and right –
so does God share grace,
abundantly and with hope.

And so we go out
and live our lives to reflect
this God of grace.