

Growing together: the wheat & the weeds



St Aidan's Uniting Church
23rd July 2023

Call to Worship

We are the adopted children of God
and with confidence
we can call God our beloved parent.

We come to worship,
not because God is a cosmic egoist
who needs to be told "he" is wonderful,
but, as in other relationships,
by spending time together we get to know each other
and build that relationship.

So, let us join together and worship God.

Prayers

God of joys, and hopes, and suffering,
when things are going well
we don't always remember
to be grateful.

When life is hard,
we complain and grumble
as if we deserved better
or that life should be fair.

All too often
we live as if all that matters
is what is happening
in the here and now,
forgetting its impact on others
or to look towards your future.

Forgive us, we pray,
and help us to
actively look towards your hope
and your future.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are the children of God,
adopted into God's family,
to have that same security
as children born into it.

Know that you are loved,
know that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
teach us to pray for the people
who we see as weeds
and not just those
who represent wheat to us.

Remind us there are many reasons
we might experience people as weeds.

We pray for people who are hurting
and push others away
so they protect their damaged selves.

We pray for people
who have experienced family dynamics
that have shaped them
so they do not trust others
but feel they have to fight
just to be seen as an equal.

We pray for people who have lost hope,
who have given up,
and make choices
that damage their lives
and the lives around them.

We also pray for those
who care for your hurt and broken people,
especially for our Church Councillors and Elders
who lead this congregation in your mission
to all your people in our community of Claremont.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

So, go out from here
and see God's hope in the world.

And where God's hope
cannot be seen by those whom you encounter,
treat them gently
until through your care,
they too know the hope to which we hold.