

Bread of Life



*The mosaic in the church at Tabgha
on the North of Lake Galilee
where the miracle is said to have occurred.*

St Aidan's Uniting Church
7th August 2023

Call to Worship

Come and gather
as we worship God
who nurtures us body & soul.

**We approach the Holy One,
who guides and protects us,
yet will wrestle with us
as we wrestle with ourselves.**

With all we are,
all that makes us human,
and all that connects us to the Divine,
we worship God.

Prayers

Loving God,
you came in the night and wrestled with Jacob,
confronting him with his past, present, and future.

**Forgive us the times you invite us
to also wrestle with you,
but we turn away,
afraid of what we might learn about ourselves.**

God of the needy,
you healed and fed the people who needed it,
without asking questions as to their motivations
or making sure they were acceptable.

**Forgive us when we spiritualise your healing and feeding,
or only want to give what we have
to the people we deem worthy,
or we send people away to make ourselves feel better.**

God of all people,
you love us deeply, regardless of how we respond;
you never give up on us and never change your promises.

**Forgive us when we limit your love
and think it only applies to people who think or act like us,
remind us once again that all people receive your love and care.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Remember you are loved by God.
Turn again to God with your whole heart and soul;
you are loved;
you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we cry with the groaning of creation,
often seeing so much need in the world
and not having the words to say what we feel needs saying.

We pray for our world,
this vast and beautiful planet,
and yet a fragile blue dot in space.

We pray for the people who are with us on this planet,
those surviving wars and natural disasters,
people struggling to make ends meet,
or find enough food so their children can eat.

We pray for our country and its many different needs,
for a future of active reconciliation
between first and subsequent peoples,
for the leaders of different communities,
and for those who are outcasts in their own land.
We pray for our community and congregation,
for the many needs that we know about
or that are held in the quiet of our hearts.

We pray for those who have no one else to pray for them.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We leave this place
and live out our faith in the world,
for our love of God
is reflected in our love of our neighbour.