

# Companion God



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## Call to Worship

God accompanies us  
on the journey of life:  
walking alongside us,  
leading us onwards.

**Walk with us, Companion God,  
lead us on our way.**

We gather in worship,  
to be nourish and fed,  
companioned and led,  
and to grow our walk closer to God.

**Walk with us, Companion God,  
as we learn to walk with you.**

## Prayers

Loving God,  
our journey with you  
can be filled with wonder and awe,  
but it can also be filled with pain and hurts.

Sometimes we encounter other people's pain  
and it is challenging,  
so we respond with trite answers,  
asserting that you caused it and you know best.

**Forgive us when we find it too hard  
to walk with others in their suffering.**

Sometimes we let the hurt gnaw away at us  
and we take this pain out on other people.  
**Forgive us when old hurts continue to define us  
and we cannot look towards the growth you offer.**

Sometimes we continue to define ourselves as victims  
and not see the possibilities for change.

**Forgive us when we could say,  
"this stops with me"  
and yet we continue in our old ways.**

**Help us to find a new path forward in our lives  
and to follow closer in your footsteps.**

**Amen**

### Words of Assurance

Our loving God  
knows all that it is to be human –  
our successes and failings,  
our hurts and our healing –  
and with compassion  
will help us start afresh.

Know that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Intercession

One prayer tradition is the walking prayer – to prayerfully go for a walk and pray for the people and situations you see. We can't do this in a church service, but we can do it in our imagination.

As we pray our prayers for the needs of the world around us, I invite you to imagine your neighbourhood. Picture yourself walking out of your front door and down the street.

- What do you see as you leave your home?
- Who do you meet as you walk?

As you continue your imaginary walk around your streets, pause as you encounter people or situations and pray for them –

- Families struggling;
- Children facing bullying at school;
- Those facing loneliness or overwork;
- People who need to experience love.

## Benediction & Blessing

God accompanies us  
on the journey of life:  
walking alongside us,  
leading us onwards.

**Walk with us, Companion God,  
lead us on our way.**

We go out from worship,  
having been nourished and fed,  
companioned and led,  
and to walk with God in every part of our lives.

**Walk with us, Companion God,  
as we learn to walk with you.**