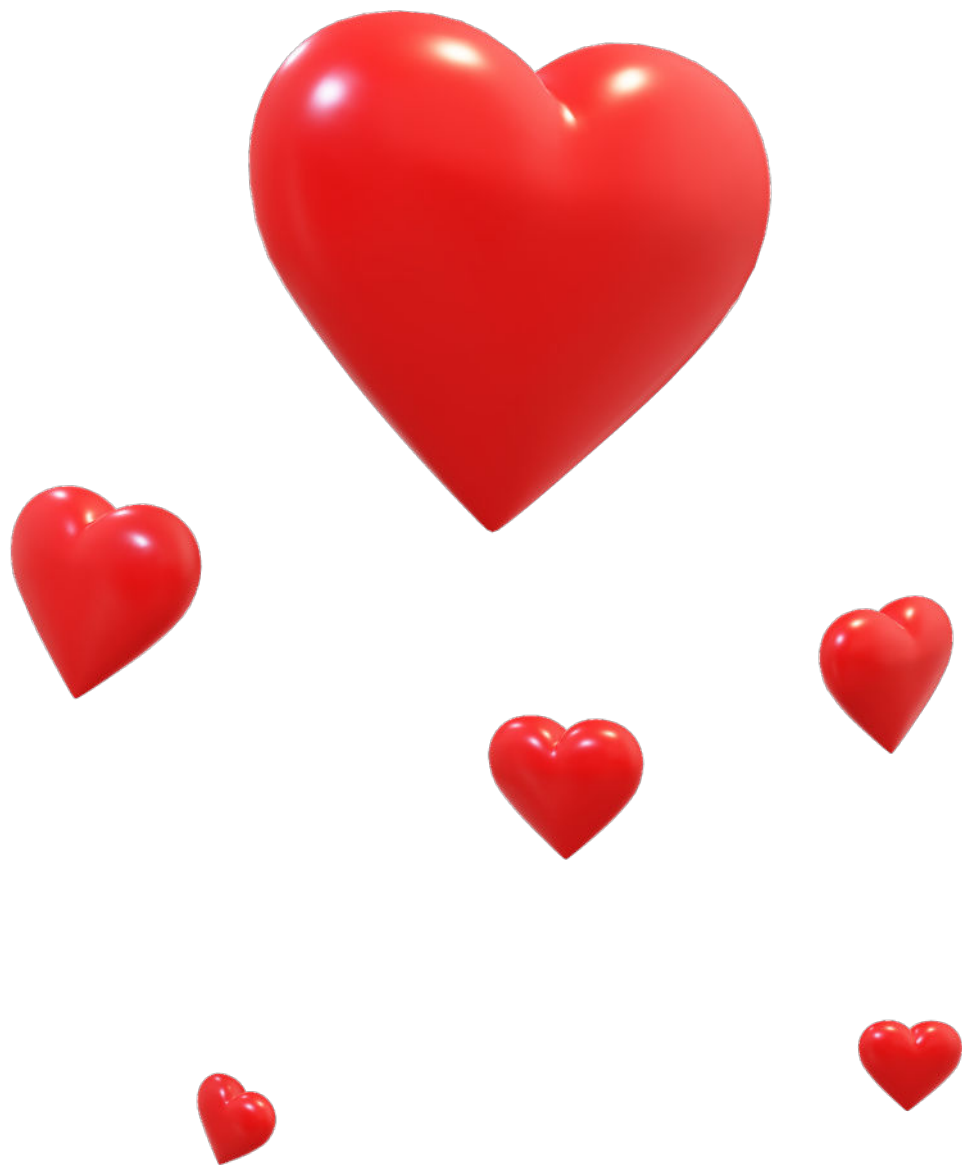


Covenant Relationship



St Aidan's Uniting Church
13th August 2023

Call to Worship

God calls us into relationship;
not a relationship built on “do” and “don’t”
but on heart-felt love.

And so, we come to worship,
to build this relationship,
and to better know
our God of love.

Prayers

God of all people,
you call us into relationship,
with you and with each other.

Sometimes we forget that you call us to love
and turn your call into rules and regulations,
seeing people who act like us as being “right”
and those who are different being “wrong.”

**Forgive us when we act
as if our way is the only way.**

Sometimes we forget that you call us to love
and our covenantal relationship with you
is a loving relationship with all your people
whether they know you or not.

**Forgive us when we act
as if our way is the only way.**

Sometimes we expect we can earn your grace
by what we do or don’t do,
and so forget that our actions
are our response to grace,
and are what justifies us.

**Forgive us when we act
as if our way is the only way.**

Amen

Words of Assurance

God is loving
and calls us into a loving relationship;
our actions are a response
to the overflowing of God's love
in our lives.

Know that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

God of the cosmos,
you call us into a covenantal relationship
with all your creation,
and so when there is pain and suffering
within your creation,
we feel its hurt too.

We come and pour out
what we know of the needs of our world
before you,
knowing you know its needs before we do,
and care more deeply than we are able.

We pray for our world,
for all the plants and animals in creation,
especially those that are vulnerable
to the changing climate
or human-generated destruction.

We pray for people around the world,
especially for those living in war zones,
experiencing natural disasters,
or living where poverty means
they cannot feed their families.

We pray for our country,
for those seeking to make it a better place
and those who have been marginalised

by our society,
for those who are new to this land,
and those whose families have been here
for thousands of years.

We pray for our community,
for the many lonely people living here,
for those who feel isolated,
or are working long hours
and not experiencing any quality of life.

We pray for our congregation,
for the different needs that exist within it,
some known to all of us,
and many known only to you.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

God calls us into covenantal relationship
Inviting us to be loved and to love.

As we go out from worship –
a time to experience God's love –
we go out to share that love
with all whom we meet.