

Power of love



St Aidan's Uniting Church
Season of Creation 3
17th September 2023

Call to Worship

God has awesome power, like a thunderstorm,
yet closer and more gentle than a breeze;
as separate as the furthest star
yet more intimate than our very breath.

This is the God we gather to worship;
this is God whose name is Love.

Prayers

Creator God,
we so often try
to mould you into our own image,
to define you in terms of what we think is important
rather than letting your being
challenge us
into new ways of being.

**Forgive us, loving God
when we try to make you in our own image.**

God of all people,
all too often we seek power to misuse it
or fail to recognise the power we have,
whether this is power over other people
or the power we have with creation.

**Forgive us, loving God,
when we fail to use our power to show your love.**

God of the cosmos,
we know what we need to do
in order for creation to be sustained,
but we do not want to make the changes,
or see them as unimportant in our lifetimes.

**Forgive us, loving God,
when we are short-sighted about how we use our power.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God, who loved this world into being,
loves you dearly.

Know that God forgives you
and helps you to start again.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we pray for the powerless people of this world,
those whose lives are controlled by others –
through modern day slavery or domestic violence –
those who can barely feed their children
because of systematic poverty or through drought,
and the many communities and peoples
whose voice is ignored.

We pray for the powerful,
whether or not they recognise their power;
the people who make the rules,
the people who use their influence on others,
the people who can buy whatever they want –
large or small –
and so shape the world in which we live;
we pray that they may use their power wisely
so humanity and all creation may have a future.

We pray for those
who consciously use their power for good;
may they be encouraged and supported
as they work in partnership with you.

Amen

As we leave from this place,
may you always know the power of God's love
and be ready to share that love
with all the people you encounter in your life.