

Change & Transformation



St Aidan's Uniting Church
12th November 2023

Call to Worship

As the day moves from sunshine,
through twilight
to complete darkness –

**God, our light,
fill our lives with your presence.**

As the story of generations pass
with the eternal march of time
and those who led in times of old
are replaced with something new –

**God, our hope,
give us comfort in change.**

As we gather to worship
we are reminded again
of who we are and whose we are –

**God, our friend,
help renew our covenant with you.**

Prayers

God, our friend and guide,
you walked with the children of Israel
as they fled oppression
and entered the Promised Land.

At each step you reassured them of your presence
and called them again and again
back relationship with you.

We too are on a journey,
though not a physical journey,
and at this point
we stop and confess the times
when we have known your presence
and yet have failed
in responding to your covenant with us.

When we find times of transition
too frightening and too challenging,
loving God, forgive us.

When we look back on the past
with rose-coloured glasses
instead of looking to the future
and the possibilities that lie ahead,
loving God, forgive us.

When we view a new and different future
with reticence or suspicion

because it is different to what we know,
loving God, forgive us.

Help us to start again
and to see the world through your eyes
with all the possibilities it offers
and the people you love.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Repentance is not simply saying “sorry”
and then repeating the same mistakes;
repentance is a change of heart.

Remember, though, that God offers grace –
The undeserved and unexpected gift.
When we repent, God will always help us start again.

Know that your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

God of the cosmos,
as we reflect on our past and look to a new future,
we also remember the people around your world
who have been disconnected from their past
or feel they have no future.

We pray for internally displaced people,
the refugees and the asylum seekers
who have had to leave their past,
their homes, their families,
and all they hold dear
because of circumstances so desperate
the dangerous journey is safer.

We also pray for those who make decisions
about the fate of those who have to flee
and that they may make those decisions
with compassion,
remembering each of these people
bear the face of Christ today.

We pray for the people who can only live in the present
because of homelessness, unemployment,
ongoing disease or disability,
those who do not know where their next meal will come from,
or how they will be able to get their children to school.

We also pray for the workers in many different fields

who are called to support those who are broken by our society
and give them hope to look beyond today.

We pray for the young people
who look at their future with despair,
seeing the lack of action for climate change
and wonder why adults do not seem to care enough
to think of the future of the next generation.

We also pray for those
who are called to make a difference
in large ways and small
and to stand up to the voices
that say it is folly.

We pray for ourselves and our congregation,
may we be wise in discerning
what to take and what to leave from our past,
may we be hopeful in exploring
what form our future may take
and do so with love and grace to build your reign.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We leave here with hope and joy
for although the past is gone
and will not return,
there is a future.

It may look different to what we expect,
but it is offered to us
if we will grasp it.