

Encountering God



St Aidan's Uniting Church
19th November 2023

Call to Worship

We come to the One who is wholly other;
yet nearer than our very breath.

We come to God who created us in God's own image;
and we come to the One whose face is seen in a stranger.

We come to acknowledge who we are and whose we are;
let us worship God.

Prayers

God of grace,
when we think we know who you are
but we are really just projecting
our prejudices onto you;
Forgive us.

Christ, the compassionate one,
when we hear your call
to show compassion to those around us
but turn away from fear or apathy,
Forgive us.

Spirit of life,
when we assume your invitation
is just to people like us
or we discount your movement
in our lives,
Forgive us.

God, our parent, friend, and guide
forgive us and help us to start again.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Know that God's grace
is a gift to all humanity –

when we truly repent
with a change of heart
we are forgiven.

Know that you are the beloved of God;
you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

There are so many needs in our world
and often we do not know
for whom we should pray.

But our prayers are not about telling God what to do –
for God already knows of the needs –
rather, it is about listening
and asking God to change our responses.

So, let us pause and reflect
on those for whom we are called to pray today.

For the people experiencing oppression;
and those who oppress them.

For the innocent victims of violence;
for those who are forced to be part of the violence;
for those who actively incite it.

For those whose understanding of God
is harsh and judgemental;
and those called to show with their lives
a different understanding.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

In our daily lives,
we encounter the One
who is both wholly other
and closer than our breath;

the One who looks like us,
and is seen in the face of the stranger.

So, wherever you go,
may you always be aware and ready to see
the face of Christ in your lives.