

Reign of God:



Christ the Good Shepherd

St Aidan's Uniting Church
26th November 2023

Call to Worship*

Here we meet.

Here we encounter.

Here we worship God.

Here we will encounter Christ,
King and Redeemer of all creation,
Shepherd of the people.

Here we will celebrate what it means
To be the people of God in this place.

Here we will give thanks

For the Word made Flesh.

Here we will meet our

Redeemer, Shepherd, and King.

Here we will worship God.

Prayers

We are called to work alongside
God, our Good Shepherd.

Yet all too often
we really want a king
who tells us what to do
or fights the people who aren't like us.

Often we find the image of the shepherd
an uncomfortable image
because it speaks of being an outcast,
of having limited resources,
and having limited strength.

God, forgive us when we want a military king
and not a loving shepherd.

Amen

Words of Assurance

God, who came to seek the lost,
and shepherd the people,
reaches out to you
before you reach out to God.

Know that you are loved and forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Dedication of the Christmas Bowl*

Australian Churches, through the Christmas Bowl,
have acted together to bring peace and hope to the world.

Help us continue to act for peace.

As children of God we will share this year's bowl
with people who are displaced, oppressed, or living in poverty.

May their lives be filled with hope and peace.

Gracious and ever-loving God,
open our hearts so we may courageously act for peace in the world.
Open our hands to share what we have with those who have little.

As we dedicate this bowl

**may it be filled with the fruits of hope, peace, joy, and love
so that all people may know your goodness and receive your grace.**

Prayer of Intercession*

Loving God, we come before you with grateful hearts, lifting up the Christmas Bowl and all those it serves. Bless the efforts of Act for Peace and their partners as they strive to bring hope, healing, and justice to those in need.

May every contribution made and every act of compassion shown be multiplied to transform lives. Grant strength and wisdom to those on the frontlines as they work tirelessly to alleviate suffering. May your love and light shine through the Christmas Bowl, bringing comfort, restoration and lasting change.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing*

Go from this place
filled with anticipation
of what God is doing in our world.
Go now, as people of God.

**We go assured that God is love,
and God reigns in our world.
We go to love our neighbour
as ourselves.**

Go now, held in the loving hands
Of God Most High.
Go now, and follow Christ in all things.
Go now, in the love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

* Materials adapted or used from the Christmas Bowl Toolkit 2023

https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/resources?utm_campaign=CB23-WEB44&utm_source=afpweb&utm_medium=web