

An Epiphany



St Aidan's Uniting Church
Epiphany
7th January 2024

Call to Worship

The prophet Isaiah gave hope to the people and said:

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

**May God's light also shine on us
as gather to worship God.**

Prayers

Forgive us, O God,
when we let the chaos overwhelm us
and fail to wait in hope for your Spirit.

Loving God, forgive us.

Forgive us, O God,
when we stay in the darkness
afraid of what the light will expose

Loving God, forgive us.

Forgive us, O God,
when we limit your creative potential to times past
and not look for it in new ways today.

Loving God, forgive us.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

At the baptism of Jesus
he was called God's beloved child.
Know that you are also the beloved of God –
know too that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
you call us to be a light to the nations
and we pray for all those
who need at this time
to experience your light
in their times of darkness.

We pray for those whose lives
are surrounded by destruction,
who have been taught to hate an enemy,
or grow up shaped by abuse and violence.

We pray for those whose lives
are disrupted by injury or illness
or whose disabilities are turned into handicaps
by the attitudes of their communities.

We pray for the many people
who have to make the best choice
when faced with so many bad options
or their ability to choose
is restricted by a lack of education.

We also pray for the people who
bring your light into the darkness in our world
and show your love,
whether or not they know they are doing this.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

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**May God's light shine through us
as live our lives in worship of God.**