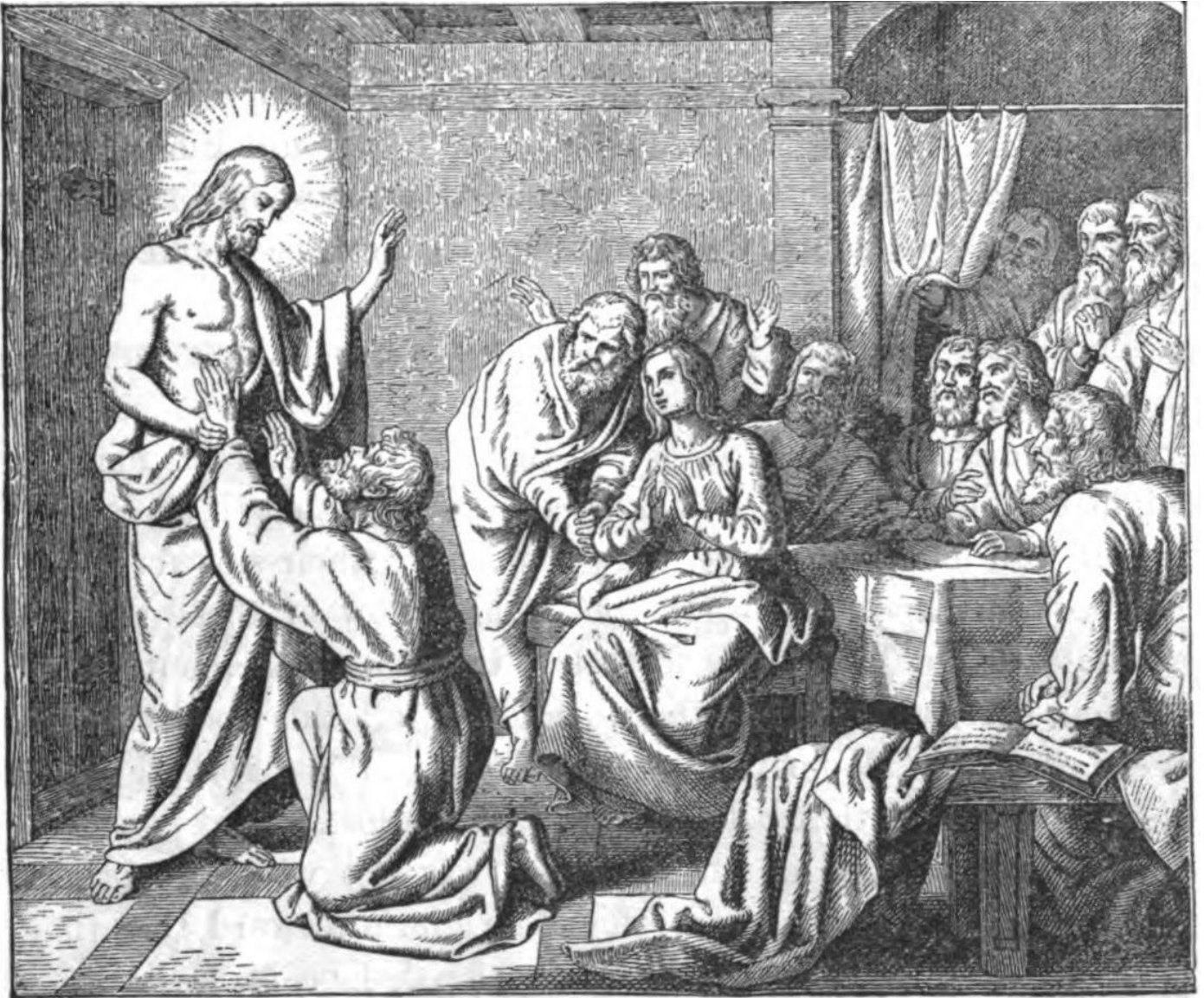


# *Faith & Senses*



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
7th April 2024  
Easter 2

## Call to Worship

Here we gather  
as members of the family of God,  
united in our care for each other  
and united in our care for the world.

**In this way we follow in Christ's footsteps  
and walk in faithfulness to God;  
in this way we worship God.**

## Prayers

Loving God,  
as we pray our confession,  
we pray aware that it is easy  
to slip into cheap grace –  
grace that does not challenge us  
to live differently.

We confess we look to cheap grace  
that lets us stay the same,  
recommitting the same sins,  
and not calling us to walk more closely with you.

We confess that we try to tame the message  
of your radical love for the world,  
we turn Christ into a remote being  
separated from human reality  
or separate Christ's reality  
from our Creator God.

Call us again to a newness of life –  
challenge and stretch us –  
teach us again  
to walk in your way of love.

And when we fail,  
pick us up like a tender parent  
helping us to walk independently

and securely,  
until we follow your way  
with confident steps  
and walk the path of your love.

**Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

God's love is with and before us,  
offering us grace –  
not cheap grace, but costly grace –  
that calls us to a new life  
walking more steadily in the paths  
to which God calls us.

Know then, that through God's love  
you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Intercession

We heard the stories of the early church sharing their  
resources with those who had need. There are many  
resources we are called to share, and that includes our  
prayers for those who are in need.

While I am writing this liturgy, I am aware of two articles in  
the day's news. There is the news of an Australian aid  
worker, killed in Gaza distributing aid. The other is of a  
young Jewish woman who is a conscientious objector to  
the violence and has been sentenced to prison. Pictures  
are on the Facebook feed of the destruction of an  
Anglican hospital in Gaze, and families are facing a  
critical shortage of food.

Loving God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We are limited as humans and the war in Gaza has  
pushed out of our consciousness the conflicts in so many

other countries. Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen, and many, many more countries. So many people suffering. So many aid workers trying to alleviate the pain. And some of them dying.

Loving God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In our own country there are people struggling. Children and families in Alice Springs and people who are victims of current or past crime. Those who have disabilities because of the actions or inactions of past generations and the intergenerational trauma that needs specialist intervention to help people find a different path.

Loving God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We just need to walk our city streets to see people who need our prayers and support. The homeless, many of whom need to find a way to get up and go to work each day when they do not have a bed at night. There are families that struggle to put a roof over their children's heads or enough food on the table, and survivors of violence who simply want to once again feel safe.

Loving God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer, Amen.**

## Benediction & Blessing

We go out from here to share God's love  
in many different ways  
in our different lives.

**In this way we follow in Christ's footsteps  
and walk in faithfulness to God;  
in this way and with our lives,  
we worship God.**