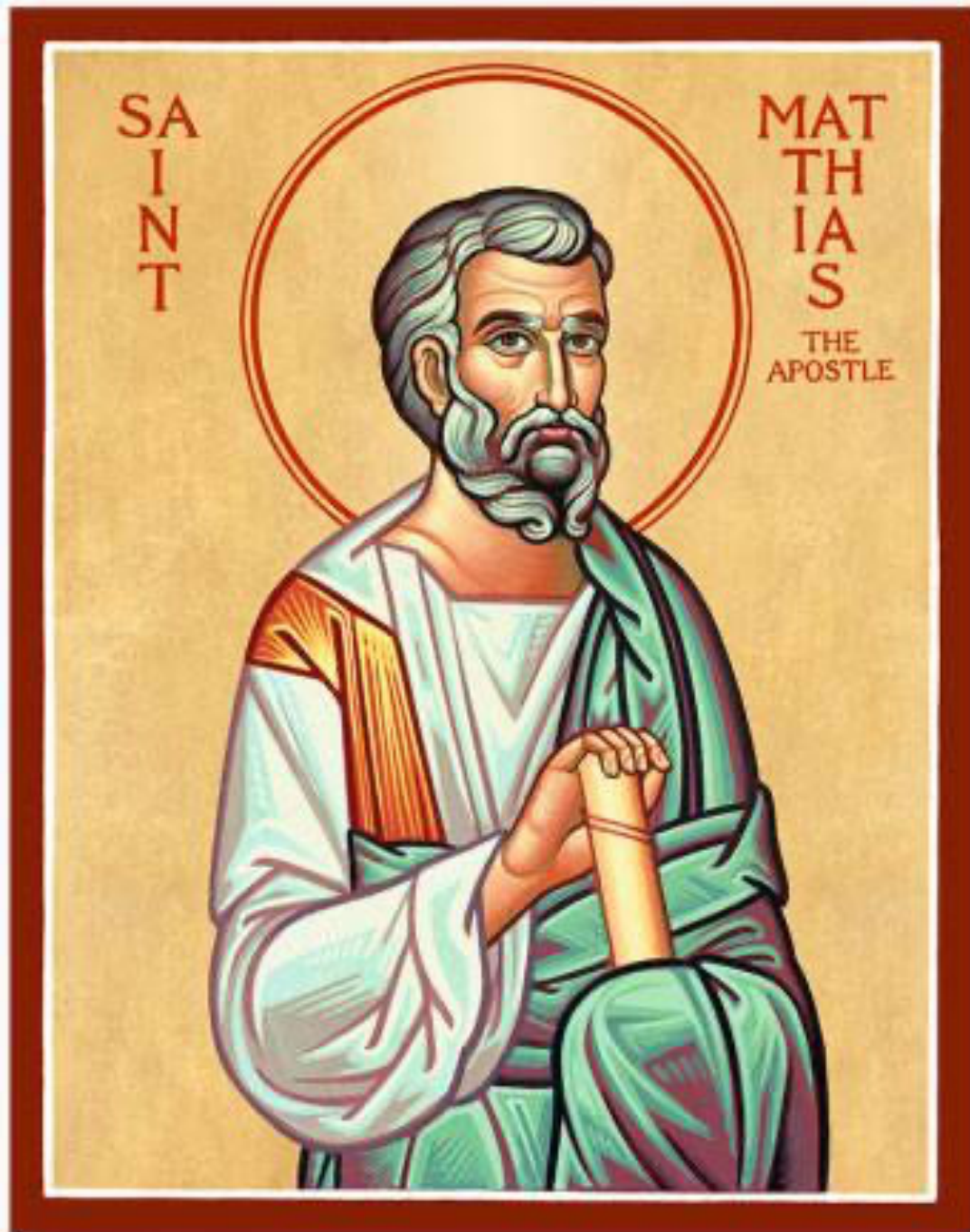


Call & Response



St Aidan's Uniting Church
12th May 2024
Easter 7

Call to Worship

We are called to be the people of God,
called together to be the community
of people who follow the way of Christ,
called to be responsive to the Spirit.

We gather as that community:

Let us worship God.

Prayers

God, who calls us to be your people,
we confess there are time
when we hear your call and ignore it

Sometimes your call feels too challenging,
and do not want to be stretched in those ways
or do what we never thought was possible.
Had the first disciples responded like that
there would now be no church.

**So forgive us, loving God,
when we do not want to grow with you.**

Sometimes we make your call
to be what we want it to be
rather than listening to your voice
and the discernment of our community.
Had the first disciples behaved like that
perhaps the wrong person would have been chosen.

**So forgive us, loving God,
when we do not want to discern with you.**

Sometimes we are overly arrogant
and fail to recognise the learning we need
to respond more effectively to your call.
Had the first disciples forgotten what needed to be learnt
the message of hope may have been stifled.

**So forgive us, loving God,
when we do not want to learn with you.**

Help us to discern afresh
how you would have us work together
to be your people of the Way.

Help us discern once more
how we are called in our context
to share your love in our world.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God is love
and offers us both grace and hope,
know that when we confess
with our whole heart,
God helps us start again.
Know you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we pray for this world
that you loved into being
and call your own.

Today we specially pray
for the mothers of our world.

We pray for mothers
who do not have the resources
to give their children
a good start in life,
whether this be because of poverty,
or because they do not have
the personal resources needed to show love,
we pray for them all.

We pray for the mothers
who will go without today
so their children can have enough,
those who go without food or shelter,
or other needs of life
because they have to
in order to care for their children.

We pray for the mothers
whose children have died
due to war, disability, still birth,
or any other reason,
be with them in their grief.

We pray for mothers
who have watched their children grow up
and, because of outside forces,
those children have taken harmful paths.

We pray for women
who are like mothers
and give that mothering love to others
regardless of whether it is recognised. Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We go out from here as the community of God,
called to be the People of the Way,
called to follow the Spirit,
and be in community with each other.

We go out from here knowing
we will see God in unexpected places
in our world.

As you go, may you always know
the love of God surrounds you,
Christ, the Companion, walks with you,
and the Spirit leads you in the dance of life.