

Pentecost



St Aidan's Uniting Church
19th May 2024

Call to Worship

Today is Pentecost –
a harvest festival,
a commemoration
of the giving of the Law at Sinai,
a time when the Spirit brought new life
into the frightened early church.

**Let us remember this history
and live out this history
in our current context.**

Let us worship God.

Prayers

Loving God,
all too frequently
we act as if the Spirit was not given,
or if it was not active in our lives.

Forgive us when we behave
like the frightened members of the early church,
rather than seeing the possibilities you offer.

Forgive us when we complain with the Exiles
that we are nothing but dry bones
and fail to feel the breath of your Spirit
stirring in our lives.

Renew our Spirit, God of love,
and call us again to new life
that we may walk with you
into the possibilities you offer.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

As God breathed new life
into the valley of the dry bones;
as God breathed new hope

into the frightened disciples,
so too, does God give you
a fresh start and new life –
know that you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
we pray for the people of your world
who need to experience you re-creation,
the people who feel their lives
are like the valley of dry bones.

We pray for those experiencing
depression and other forms of mental illness,
people caught up in conflict –
whether this is war or domestic violence,
and those who have to pull their lives together
after yet another environmental disaster.

Spirit of Truth,
we for those who need an Advocate,
who need someone
to stand up and support them
through the difficulties in their lives,
someone who can help their voice be heard
amongst those who can make the change.

Christ our friend,
we pray for all those
who particularly need to know
your companionship at this time,
and for those who,
whether they know it or not,
are a Christ-figure in the lives of those around them
in giving comfort and support.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

The Exiles wondered
how they could sing the Lord's song
in a strange land,
until they realised God was there,
with them,
in that strange land.

The early church wondered
how they could go on
living the Way,
taught to them by their friend Jesus,
until they realised
God's Spirit blew among them
and gave them fresh hope.

So we leave here
knowing the Spirit of God
is also among us
and will lead us on our paths
and reinvigorate our lives.

As we go, may you always know
the blessing of God, our loving parent,
Christ, our friend and companion,
and the Spirit who breathes into us new life.