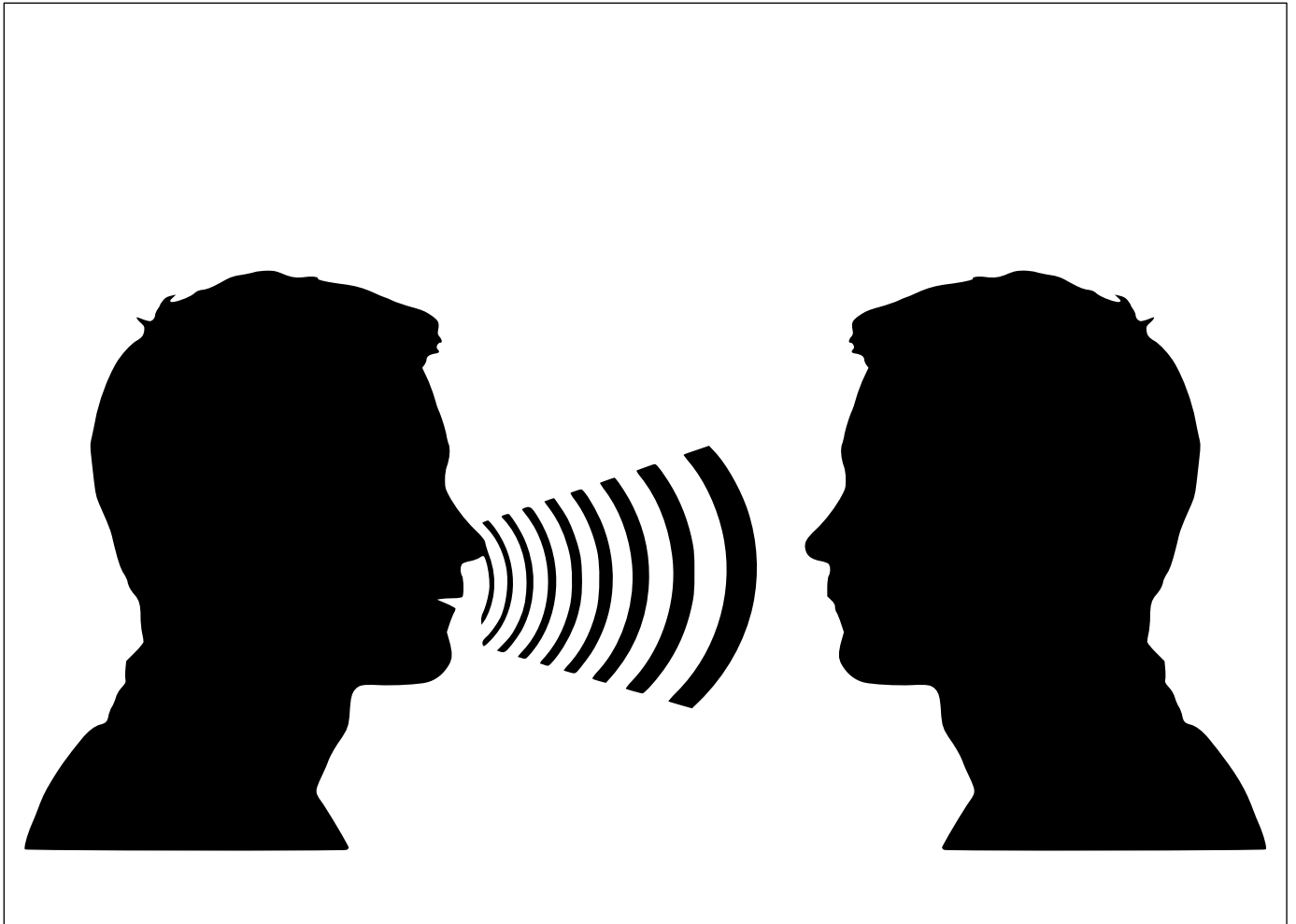


# Speaking & listening



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Easter 6

## Call to Worship

God calls to each of us,  
speaking into our lives  
in words we understand.

We gather together in community  
to sharpen our hearing  
to the voice of God.

**As we gather,  
let us worship God.**

## Prayers

God, our friend and guide,  
you call us in different directions,  
leading our lives down interesting paths  
and opening our eyes  
to your love in the world.

We confess that we do not always listen carefully  
to what you say,  
nor do we always respond to your call.  
Sometimes it suits us to go our own way  
and so others miss out  
experiencing your love.

We confess that sometimes our ears are blocked  
by the pressures of our lives  
then we cannot hear your call  
or we fail to hear it correctly.

We confess our prejudices  
can change the way  
we hear your message,  
and so we make assumptions  
about how to respond  
or not respond at all.

God, our friend and guide,  
help us to listen more carefully,  
help us to walk more closely with you.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

God is love  
and when we confess  
God helps us to start again.

Know that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer of Intercession

God of all people,

we pray for all your beloved children  
and all your beloved creation.

We pray for those who your church has excluded,  
thinking they don't need to listen.

We pray for those excluded because of their  
race or culture, gender or sexuality,  
language, clothing,  
poverty, or homelessness.

We pray for the people  
who fail to see others as your beloved,  
that they may listen more fully to your call  
and understand your invitation  
to fullness of life for all.

We pray for all who truly understand  
your message of radically inclusive love,  
and understand this,  
regardless of whether or not  
they call themselves "Christian."

Help us all to respond to your call  
to be an accepting community;  
help us be part of the answer  
to the prayers for the needs of the world.  
Amen.

## Benediction & Blessing

As we go out,  
listen afresh to God's call in your life,  
remembering that God may call you  
through unexpected people  
and unexpected events.  
And as you go, may you always know  
the love of God surrounds you,  
Christ the Companion walks with you,  
and the Spirit leads you on the dance of life.