

On the stormy sea



St Aidan's Uniting Church
23rd June 2024

Call to Worship

We come for rest,
to shelter
from the stormy seas of life.

Christ reminds us:
peace, be still.

Let us take this time
from our storms
to be still,
to be at peace,
and worship God.

Prayers

God, whose presence Christ knew,
in the small boat
in a violent storm,
and accompanies us
though the storms of life,
**give us courage
to follow you.**

Forgive us when we want easy solutions,
to be rescued rather than guided,
or removed from trouble
rather than helped through it.
Help us to mean it when we pray:
**give us courage
to follow you.**

Forgive us when the fear of those around us
infects how we respond
Help us to mean it when we pray:
**give us courage
to follow you.**

Forgive us when our understanding
of God is too small
and limits us to what is safe.

Help us to mean it when we pray:

**give us courage
to follow you.**

Forgive us when we feel we are abandoned,
but it is really that we have left you.

Help us to mean it when we pray:

**give us courage
to follow you.**

Give us the courage to start again
and be your people
wherever your love needs to be known in our world.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Peace.

Be still.

You are loved.

Know that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

God, in the still, small voice, today we pray for people
who feel they are caught up in the storms of life.

We pray for people who experience violence –
through war,
domestic and family violence,
because of their gender,
from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

May they know your peace.

We pray for people whose lives are in turmoil –
because they do not have enough,
experience discrimination,
are looking for a home and safety.

May they know your peace.

We pray for people whose lives
are like a boat being tossed on the stormy sea –
when poverty leads them
to be lurching from one crisis to the next.

May they know your peace.

When we worry about our empty churches
and dying congregations,
give us the courage to journey with you
across to the other side.

Teach us to know your peace.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We came for shelter and rest
from the storms of our lives.
Now go with courage,
back into the storm,
knowing the peace of God.

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.