

# Age and Youth



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
11<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## Call to Worship

God, of fresh starts and new beginnings,  
calls us together,  
and together we learn,  
and grow,  
and change:  
together we worship God.

## Prayers

Loving God,  
forgive us the times  
we have thought our way  
is the only way  
and found difference to be  
far too challenging.

God of compassion,  
help also to show compassion,  
when we are faced with difference,  
but more than that,  
help us to have a willingness  
to learn from what challenges us.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,  
help to keep experiencing  
your invitation to newness of life,  
forgive us when we only want  
the things that are old and familiar,  
shake us out of the comfort  
of what we have always known.

Help us to start afresh  
in our relationship with other people  
and with you.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

God's nature is grace,  
and grace is that undeserved gift:  
take hold of that grace  
as an offer to turn your life around:  
know that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,  
today we pray for the young people of our world;  
they are not the future, they are here now.

We pray for those who grow up in countries  
where the vast majority of the population are youth,  
due to disease or warfare,  
and so they do not have the wisdom of their elders  
to guide them as they grow and develop.

We pray also for those whose countries  
have a missing generation  
where parents have died an untimely death  
and older children need to bring up the babies  
with the help from their grandparents.

We pray for young people  
who look to their future with anxiety  
as they see the effects of climate change  
and other environmental degradation  
and see older generations doing nothing about it.

We pray for young people  
who are trying to break the cycle of violence  
in their communities and families,  
who say the intergenerational trauma  
will stop with them  
and are doing their best to make this happen.

We pray for all the children and youth  
in our communities and around the world  
that they may have hope,  
the experience of love,  
and look to world where they too  
can experience a fullness of life.  
Amen.

## Benediction & Blessing

We go out from here  
and look to experience God  
in odd places  
and through surprising people,  
we go out to learn from God  
in all our life.

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.