

Gone Fishing



St Aidan's Uniting Church
9th February 2025
Epiphany 5

Call to Worship

On the shores of Lake Gennesaret,
Jesus told Simon to lower his nets once again –
and Simon received in abundance
from a place where he had experienced scarcity.

**We too gather
and bring only what we have.**

Let us, as a community,
worship God.

Prayers

As we come with our prayers,
we remember that God has called us
to share love, hope, and grace with the world:

**and so we confess the times
we have failed to act with compassion.**

There are times we have made assumptions
and so have hurt others

**and so we confess the times
we have failed to act with compassion.**

There are times we have heard God's call
and made excuses to turn aside

**and so we confess the times
we have failed to act with compassion.**

There are times we doubt the abundance,
keeping God's gifts to ourselves

**and so we confess the times
we have failed to act with compassion.**

There are times we have held onto the past
rather than recognising that new times
means new ways of communicating:

**and so we confess the times
we have failed to act with compassion.**

Help us to start again,
compassionate God;
help us to share your love, hope, and grace
with the world that needs to know it
now more than ever.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

We can only share love
when we have experienced it;
we can only forgive,
when we know what it is to be forgiven.

So know that God loves you deeply
and you are forgiven:

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Here we are, Creator God,
after yet another week of news
that tells us about a world in chaos,
of people hurting,
of rights being eroded,
of exploitation,
and fear,
and war.

Another week hearing how
incompetent people
are dismantling protections for the vulnerable
in their country
and around the world.

Sometimes we feel like Simon,
coming in after a long, hard night
with an empty boat
and no prospect of having enough.

Help us to hear you
even when we encounter you unexpectedly,
help us to respond
to your invitation to throw our nets
into the water once more.

Help us to hold in our prayers
and, where we can, in our actions
this our world in chaos,
with people hurting,
with rights being eroded,
with exploitation,
and fear,
and war.

Help us to even pray
for the people who are inflicting these hurts
on others.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

God does not call us
without equipping us for the task at hand,
even when we make excuses
for why the call is not for us.

Go out into God's world
ready to respond to God's call
wherever you encounter it,
ready to respond
with hope, grace, and love,
ready to be God's hands in our world.

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.