

Like a tree by a river



St Aidan's Uniting Church
16th February 2025
Epiphany 6

Call to Worship

We come to this place,
seeking to be like a tree
planted by water
that grows and is strong
when the droughts of life
try to starve it.

**We come to this place
to be fed and strengthened
so that we too may bear fruit.**

So, let us come;
let us worship God.

Prayers

Loving God,
as we approach this time and place,
we come seeking to learn and grow
in our faith with you.

We come looking for new life
and new strength;
for resilience to face the road that lies ahead
and grace that can be shared on our way.

Yet, as we come,
we know there have been times
where we have found growth challenging
or have wanted to be selfish with your grace.

Forgive us the times
when we could have experienced growth
but we shut it out or turn away,
because what we are asked to consider
shakes our certainties
or challenges our presuppositions:
**forgive us, God of compassion,
and help us start again.**

Forgive us those times
when we have been like trees planted at the river
and in soaking up the water we need
we have created thirst for others
and give them no way of meeting their needs:
**forgive us, God of compassion,
and help us start again.**

Forgive us those times
when we are the ones who are

persecuting your little ones
or when, because of our fullness,
we fail to see the hunger of others:

**forgive us, God of compassion,
and help us start again.**

Challenge us again to walk in your footsteps,
help us to follow, even when it is hard,
teach us to be like a shady tree
that offers much to those around us
until your love and grace
is experienced in its fullness in this world. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Do not fear,
for God the gardener
looks after all the plants –
and that includes you.

Know that you are loved and forgiven,
thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Today, loving God,
we pray for the children of our community
and all who support them.

For the children who this year
have started at a new school,
with all the hopes and fears
they will experience in that process:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.**

For the children who fear school,
because of bullying
or inability to keep up,
because of problems at home
or their own mental health issues:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.**

For children who have outgrown their school
and need further stretching
and new opportunities:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.**

For the parents
who seek to guide their children
and grow them into healthy adults

able to respond to the stressors of life:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.**

For the teachers and staff at our schools
who put so much time and energy
into helping young people to develop:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.**

For our school chaplains
who look to bringing your live
into many lives
in many different ways:

**God of grace,
let them know your love.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

We go out,
sent by God
to bear fruit in the world –
bear fruit
of love, grace, and hope,
in a world that needs to know
there is good news.

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.