

Decluttering for Lent



St Aidan's Uniting Church
23rd March 2025
Lent 3

Call to Worship

God calls us into relationship:
a relationship that changes us
and calls us to be
all that we can be.

God calls us into relationship:
a relationship that changes us
and offers us the gift
of a fullness of life.

**In response to that gift,
to further that relationship,
we come and worship God.**

Prayers

Isaiah invites us to seek the Lord while he may be found.

Forgive us for our lack of seeking and for forgetting that all are welcome at God's table.

The Psalmist writes: You are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

Forgive us when we have not been thirsty enough in our seeking.

Paul assures us God is faithful and will not test us beyond our strength.

Forgive us when we have not trusted God.

In Luke, Jesus is invited to judge the Galileans and declines.

Forgive us when we judge others.

Luke, in the parable of the fig tree, reminds us that God wants us to be productive.

In our repentance, may we dig more deeply and cultivate fruits of faithfulness.

Words of Assurance

God calls us to have a change of heart,
to turn our lives around
and follow in God's ways.

This call to a change of heart
is not something we do on our own:
God supports us in changing
and guides us.

You are offered the gift of God's grace
and God forgives you:

thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

It feels all too easy
to blame other people,
to think smugly
that their misfortunes are their fault.

It seems all too easy
to look at tragedy,
pain,
suffering –
human made
or random acts of nature –
and see it as something "they" deserved
or at least
that we are justified
in not experiencing.

**Help us to remember
that we are no better
than those who are suffering.**

Help us to remember

**to pray for them
in their time of need.**

And so,
in a time of silence,
we pray for the needs of our world:
for the broken and hurting
in our homes,
in our church,
in our community,
our country,
and wherever they are
across the globe.

**Hold, O loving God,
all who need to experience
your healing and wholeness
in the palm of our hand.**

**Change our hearts
so we can love as you do.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

We go out in love
to share God's love
with all God's people.

We go out with a changed heart
and refreshed relationship –
a relationship
with God,
with each other,
and with all God's people
whoever they may be.

And as you go,
remember that God is with you.