

# Do not remember



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Lent 5

## Call to Worship

Come with joy and remember –  
remember all of what God has done for us,  
remember God calling us  
and drawing us near.

Come, and worship  
the one who calls us;  
**come and worship**  
**the one who gives us life.**

## Prayers

Forgiving God,  
when you saw the Exiles in distress  
you told them  
not to remember the past things.

Forgive us, loving God,  
when we become limited  
by the things of the past,  
when traditions become too important  
and we hang onto what is no longer useful.

Forgive us, loving God,  
when the past becomes more important  
than our present  
and expressing your grace  
in this world that you love.

Forgive us, loving God,  
when we selectively remember the past  
to make ourselves feel better  
about the things we have or have not done.

Show us again a new way of being,  
a new way of being in relationship with you,  
and a new way of being in relationship with others.

Help us to start again

sharing your love and compassion  
with this world you love,  
Amen.

### Words of Assurance

In calling us to forget the old,  
God invites us to imagine something new  
that is so radically different  
we cannot imagine it  
in relation to the old.

God's grace is like that too –  
so radically different  
that our experiences of this world  
cannot be used to describe it.

Know that you are offered that grace,  
you are loved and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Intercession

Renewing God,  
we pray that our world  
may know your new creation  
and that former things will be forgotten.

We pray the hate in our world will be forgotten –  
that people who call empathy a sin  
may know what it means to share your love;  
we pray for those who have been taught  
to think of themselves as better than others  
that they too may dream of something new  
as they come to understand  
all people are made in your image.

We pray the vulnerable ones  
will experience your new creation  
and that former things will be forgotten;  
that discrimination will be healed  
and new opportunities be given,  
that needs will be met  
to enable all to experience  
a fullness of life.

We pray for those who hold onto memory –  
memories that help us to live in your footsteps,  
that remember the mistakes of the past  
in order to not repeat them,  
and joyful times  
that teach us to trust you more.

We pray too for those who are forgotten,  
those who are overlooked  
not wanted,  
not accepted,  
not seen,  
we pray that they may have the chance  
to also experience your life  
in all the fullness you offer.  
Amen.

## Benediction & Blessing

We go out with joy,  
remembering what God has done,  
and yet not limiting God  
by our expectations  
or our previous experiences.

And so, we go out  
knowing God goes with us,  
encompassed by the compassion of Christ,  
and led by the Holy Spirit.