

An
unexpected journey



St Aidan's Uniting Church
4th May 2025

Call to Worship

We are on a journey,
a journey with twists and turns,
with unexpected invitations,
unplanned detours
that turn into the main event.

Where are we going on that journey?

We may have plans,
but plans can be interrupted
by the call of God.

Here we gather
as part of that journey
to listen, and reflect,
learn, and be challenged,
and most of all
we worship God.

Prayers

Creator God,
you have guided us on our journey of life
and kept us safe through its challenges,
but we have not always followed the path you show us,
sometimes thinking that our way is better.

When we think the path to which you call us
is too hard, or too rocky
and we turn aside to choose an easier way:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we have been too badly hurt
by things that we have done
and we are not willing to try again:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we think we know where we are going
and press on regardless
even when you call us
onto a different path:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we fail to listen
to your questions and challenges,
not seeing the possibilities
that you would offer us:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we limit the possibilities
of who can know you
or who can teach us about your love:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we allow our traditions
to limit the ways we know you
or to restrict the ways
we communicate your love to others:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

When we fail to be stretched
beyond our imagining,
because although we hear your call
we doubt it is possible or meant for us:

**God of compassion,
forgive us.**

Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are called to be the people of God,
called and equipped for the journey
of a life that brings the good news
to all who know God's love and grace.

You also need to know God's love and grace –
this message of hope is not only to share with others
but also to know truly, and deeply for yourself.

Know that you are forgiven:

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we recognise the privilege we have
living where we do
in the context we have,
and we know that not everyone
has the capacity that we do
through no fault of their own.

We pray for people whose life journey
takes them through a place
of trauma and pain,
whether this is inflicted by others,
as a result of natural disaster,
or through random chance
that could happen to anyone.

We pray for those whose life journey
has been interrupted or cut short,
those who cannot reach their potential
because of limitations placed on them
by the community around them,
those who are told they are not good enough
or because of a lack of resources

are unable to have the same opportunities.

We pray for the people whose life journey causes hurt to themselves or to others, as a way of masking psychological pain, or because they think it is right, or because they think that is what they deserve.

We pray for those whose journey is actually running away from their pain or the mistakes of the past unwilling or unable to face up to it and so repeating those past patterns wherever they go.

We pray for all those who have too much certainty; who think they know where they are called and blindly follow without question, who need to learn the shades of grey, and the importance of questions and exploration.

We pray for those who are lost on their journey of life, who need a helping hand and guidance in order to once again find their way.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We have taken a break from our journey of life – been feed and watered, both physically and spiritually.

Now it is time to leave this space to journey through the world God loves and to share that love with all people.

So go out knowing the love of God, the fellowship of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit.