

The Good Samaritan



St Aidan's Uniting Church
13th July 2025
Proper 10

Call to Worship

The prophet Amos set a plumbline,
to measure up the peoples
and call them back to God.

Jesus was asked,
"Who is my neighbour?"
a question many rabbis asked their students
and told a story to make the inquirer think
and expand his understanding
of the great commandment.

And what of us?

Why do you come?

**Let us come as seekers,
to learn and explore,
let us come to worship God.**

Prayers

Loving God,
teach us to know grace,
mercy shared,
and hope enacted.

Teach us again to not ask,
"Is this person my neighbour?"
but to assume and act with mercy and kindness.

Teach us again to not ask,
"Is this person my neighbour?"
seeking to find excuses to walk by
or exclude people from our circle of concern.

Forgive us when the question
of who is acceptable
becomes more important
than the question of how to show love.

Forgive us when we make excuses
for not caring,
not making a difference
not living out your reign.

Help us to hear the words
spoken to the seeker,
as if they are also spoken to us:

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Amen.

Words of Assurance

It is not just that we are called to show mercy:
we can only show others mercy,
when we know what it is to experience it.

Christ's words of grace are also for you:
you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

God of all people,
there are so many needs out there in our world
and today we focus our prayers
on the people who are bringing your love to your people,
especially for those commissioned today
to participate in your ministry
on behalf of this church community.

We pray for our Elders,
and all who are called to pastoral care
of their communities,
ensuring people have a listening ear
and support in their times of struggle.

We pray for the members of our Church Council
and other equivalent bodies
whose role is to think about the practicalities
of the congregation –
finances, buildings, decisions.

We pray for those engaged in outreach,
who are actively sharing your love
on behalf of their congregations,
helping others to connect to their spirituality
and explore their relationship with you.

We pray for all who resource your mission,
the staff and volunteers of our Presbytery and Synod
who offer support to the work of congregations,
especially to struggling congregations
who cannot afford a minister.

We pray for your church around the world,
that together, with its many parts,
it may continue to show your love,
your hope,
and your grace.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

"Who is my neighbour?"

What, now, is your answer?

Hear the words
spoken to the seeker,
as if they are also spoken to us:

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said,

"The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

So, go out to do likewise,
for all whom you meet
knowing that God's love goes with you,
Christ is your companion,
and the Spirit your advocate and guide.