

# Faithful Saints



Assumption of the Virgin, Francesco Botticini, 1476

St Aidan's Uniting Church  
10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

## Call to Worship

God invites us into relationship,  
and in faith we respond,  
not with a list of beliefs,  
or rituals,  
or traditions,  
but with relationship that changes us.

**In faith we come  
and we worship God.**

## Prayers

Loving God,  
in whom we know once again  
what it is to be loved  
and to love,  
we bring before you the times  
when faith has been an empty word.

When we have seen faith  
as the opposite of doubt,  
and see it as little more  
than agreeing to set ideas:

**Faithful God,  
deepen our relationship with you;  
call us again to live faithfully.**

When faith becomes rigid tradition  
or rituals that are practiced like magic:

**Faithful God,  
deepen our relationship with you;  
call us again to live faithfully.**

When agreeing with ideas  
becomes more important  
than acting justly  
and protecting the vulnerable:

**Faithful God,  
deepen our relationship with you;  
call us again to live faithfully.**

Faithful God,  
remind us again that you walk with us  
and help us walk closer with you.

**Amen.**

## *Words of Assurance*

God, indeed, is faithful,  
calling us back onto the right paths  
and showing us love.

As a demonstration of that love,  
God reaches out to us –  
know that you are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Prayer of Intercession*

Loving God,  
sometimes faith feels hard  
because we look at the needs of the world  
and we cannot reconcile it  
with beliefs in a loving God.

But, loving God,  
you remind us that faith changes us  
and changes our response  
to the people around us,  
so as we pray for the needs of our world,  
inspire us to know when and where  
we can make a difference,  
whether that is action that is large or small.

We pray for the people who live near to us,  
those who walk our streets in loneliness,  
or struggle from day to day to meet their needs,  
whether those needs  
are physical, emotional, or spiritual.

We pray for those who live far away,  
some of whom have needs  
that we can only imagine  
and perhaps read about in the news.

We pray for our natural world,  
the gift of creation  
that is ours to care for,  
but we have failed, preferring domination.

Help us, loving God,  
to see where we can make a difference  
by living faithfully in covenant with you,

help us also to hold in prayer  
those people and situations  
where this is all that we can do;  
help us to pray for the many people  
who make lives better.  
Amen.

### Benediction & Blessing

Go out to live your life,  
faithful to the God who loves you  
and calls us to live with justice and compassion.  
And go knowing the blessing of God is with you,  
Jesus, the Christ, knows what it is to be human,  
and the Holy Spirit inspires your life.