

In times of change



St Aidan's Uniting Church
17th August 2025

Call to Worship

It times of change
and instability

God is with us.

When we are afraid of the future
and unsure of what it brings:

God is with us.

As we gather in community
and come to worship

God is with us.

Prayers

God of the past, present, and future,
you call us to new beginnings and different ideas,
challenging the old
when it limits us,
and giving us a vision
of a different future.

You brought your people out of slavery,
giving them a vision of a promised land,
although it would take many years
for the promise to be fulfilled,
and some wanted to go back
to what was safe and what they knew:
**forgive us when we look back to the old
and want it again,
even when it was life denying.**

God of the Exile,
you were with the people in that difficult time
and encouraged them to build families,
plant vineyards,
and create a new community,
rather than wanting to return
to the corrupt society they had lost:

**forgive us when we look back to the old
and want it again,
even when it was life denying.**

God of the return,
you called the people back to their land,
sharing with them on their journey,
and encouraging them as they rebuilt,
yet they were discouraged by hard work
and wondered why they had ever left their exile:

**forgive us when we look back to the old
and want it again,
even when it was life denying.**

God of now,
you call each generation to find new ways
to share your love, compassion, and grace,
so their society can hear your call
and come to find you:

**forgive us when we look back to the old
and want it again,
even when it was life denying. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God whose mercy and grace
is God's gift to all,
and is offered to support each of us
to change our ways
and walk closer with God.

As Jesus said so long ago,
I say to you know –
you are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
this world of ours seems ever changing,
stability seems a thing of the past,
and we are not always certain how to respond
to the different challenges of our time.

And yet there is one constant:
you are there,
throughout time and history,
your presence has supported people,
called people to live differently,
and invited people into a new relationship
with each other and with you.

We pray for young people
faced with uncertainty
in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis,
a housing shortage,
and the expense of higher education
leaving them questioning
whether they will ever have security
and a home of their own.

We pray for people undergoing life changes
who are uncertain as to what the future holds
or even if they have a future at all.

We pray for the people
who are disconnected from their past
and so face a future
where they are uncertain of
who they are and whose they are.

We pray for those who can only live in the now
because the future is too uncertain.

We pray for people whose present
is full of pain and suffering
that seems like it will simply never end.

And we pray for all those who support
the people experiencing this fear and anxiety,
all the people who are doing your work
whether or not they know it.
Amen.

Prayer after communion

**Bread of life,
you have fed us,
nurtured us,
given us our fill:
and yet there are leftovers.**

**Give us the courage
to ensure those leftovers
do not go to waste;
remind us to gather them up
so they may be taken
to those who cannot be here.**

**And as we leave this place,
help us to go out hungry,
hungry for justice,
hungry for grace,
and more than that
hungry to see your love shared
wherever we go in this world.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

It times of change
and instability
God is with us.

When we are afraid of the future
and unsure of what it brings:

God is with us.

As we go out to community
we live our life as an act of worship:

God is with us.

Go knowing that God is, indeed, with you
and blesses you in all of life,
that Christ, the Human One, walks beside you
supporting you in times of challenge and change,
and the Spirit inspires us.