

To break down or build?



Banksy, Girl with Balloon

St Aidan's Uniting Church
24th August 2025

Call to Worship

God calls
and we respond.

From our lives,
with their different demands,
joys and sorrows
God calls
and we respond.

God calls us into this time and place
to gather in community
and deepen our relationship
with each other and God.
**We respond to that call;
together we worship God.**

Prayers

Holy God,
who creates and recreates this world,
we hear your call on our lives
and make excuses rather than responding;
we hear your word to us today
and we decide that we don't like change.

When we are challenged
to pluck up and pull down
the barriers gets in the way
of people knowing your love and compassion:
**recreate us in your image
and call us once again to your ministry.**

When the building up and planting
takes us out of our comfort zone
because of the people we need to connect with
or the traditions we have to give up,
**recreate us in your image
and call us once again to your ministry.**

When we make excuses
to not respond to your call
rather than asking for help
and trusting you are with us:
**recreate us in your image
and call us once again to your ministry.**

When we struggle to reinterpret
the stories of old
and ancient words of wisdom,
in ways to make meaning
for people of today:
**recreate us in your image
and call us once again to your ministry.**

Remind us of your love,
call us again to change our ways,
challenge us to both pull down and plant
in our lives,
until your image is reflected in us
and we live in your fullness of life. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God's invitation to life
is for you, this day and every day.

Take hold of that invitation,
respond to the call,
turn your life around
and know you are forgiven:
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
who invites humanity into relationship
and made us in your image,
we pray for your people around the world
who are struggling at this time.

There are people whose lives are uprooted
through wars, famine, and natural disasters;
there are lives to which people cannot return,
and change is not of their choosing,
but at the whim of the powerful:

**Have compassion on the uprooted ones
and give them hope of a future
where their lives will be replanted.**

There are people whose lives are uprooted
through homelessness, loss of jobs, and cost of living;
people unable to care for their children
though no fault of their own
and sometimes are blamed for their inability:

**Have compassion on the uprooted ones
and give them hope of a future
where their lives will be replanted.**

There are people whose lives are uprooted
from discrimination, prejudices, and judgement
because of who they are or how they look
and the application of old ideas to a new life:

**Have compassion on the uprooted ones
and give them hope of a future
where their lives will be replanted.**

There are people whose lives are uprooted
by illness or disability
that limits their options for life
and what they can do,
or what others think they can do:

**Have compassion on the uprooted ones
and give them hope of a future
where their lives will be replanted.**

There are people who get out there and plant hope,
bringing new life to the uprooted,
making sure they experience compassion and care,
treating them as fellow humans:

**We give you thanks for the planters,
who are living out your reign today
so all people may know your love.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

God sends
and we respond.

From our lives,
with their different demands,
joys and sorrows
God sends
and we respond.

God sends us from this time and place
into our different communities community
to share compassion and hope
with those who need it most:
**We respond to that sending;
together we live out our worship of God.
Amen.**