

Word of Life



St Aidan's Uniting Church
19th October 2025

Call to Worship

The ancient poet declared:

Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.**

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

**I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.**

I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

**I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.**

How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Ps 119:97-103

We gather as a community to learn of God's ways;
let come and worship God.

Prayers

Creator God,
throughout the ages
you have given us guidance
and called us to be your people,
yet we have misunderstood
or misused the stories
of the ancients
and so have taken them in ways
that were never intended.

When we project our ways of thinking
on the people who wrote the Bible
and so insert meaning
that was never the intention:

**Offer us a new word
and a new heart.**

When we fail to understand
how our context has shaped us
and changes what we hear or see
as we read the stories of old:

**Offer us a new word
and a new heart.**

When we cling to old ways of understanding
that no longer fit our context
and refuse to learn new ways
or consider new ideas:

**Offer us a new word
and a new heart.**

When we leap on new ideas
without considering carefully
how it aligns to the good news
that Christ came to share:

**Offer us a new word
and a new heart.**

When we create a god in our own image,
rather than allowing ourselves
to be shaped into the image of God:

**Offer us a new word
and a new heart.**

Help us to hear your word for us today,
loving God,
and reshape us
until we are truly living out
your reign of love for our world.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Christ, the Word,
came to offer God's love and compassion
to a struggling world:
know that you are forgiven –

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Recreating God,
who gave the exiles hope
and called the people to look for renewal,
we pray for those around the world
who need that same experience
of hope and fresh starts.

We pray for the people whose lives are limited
because they stubbornly stick
to old ways of knowing,
which no longer work,
or are harmful to themselves or others,
or leaves them feeling separated from the world.

We pray for those who experience
a judgemental god,
who see the bible as a list of do and don't,
a set of rules that must be obeyed
in order to be rewarded

or to prevent the anger and abuse
that would otherwise follow.

We pray for those who have experienced
spiritual abuse in all its forms,
whether this is being told to hide feelings
as they weren't considered "godly"
or to stay in abusive relationships
because it is seen as being
what the Bible says.

We pray for those who use the Scriptures
to justify violence and hatred,
especially when this is directed
towards people who are different
and those who stand up to them.

We pray that we might hear your word
to us in our context,
that we will be challenged
in new ways to reflect
on how to be your people
in our time and place.

Amen.

Prayer after communion

We thank you, God of love,
for your blessing of this world
symbolised in this meal of bread and wine.

May they sustain us as your people
to share this blessing with those around us,
may we encounter you
in fresh and surprising ways,
and see you in all the gifts you give to this world.

Benediction & Blessing

We came, we listened, we reflected.

Now, we go out, we love,
we still reflect.

So go out, knowing God is with you,
may you hear Christ, the Word of God,
echo through your life,
and may the Spirit inspire you
to share that love with all whom you meet.