

After destruction



The Second Temple; Aiely, 2008

St Aidan's Uniting Church
16th November 2025

Call to Worship

Is 12:4-6

“Give thanks to the Lord;
call on his name;

**make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”**

Come, let us gather and worship God.

Prayers

Creator God,
when our world feels like it is falling apart,
it can be hard to look to your future,
and we simply hold on more tightly
to the past that was.

When we build a temple
and try to contain you
in brick and mortar,
refusing to see or experience
your action in our wider world:
Loving God, forgive us.

When we limit our experiences
to where we feel safe
and fail to explore the boundaries
and see you in new ways:

Loving God, forgive us.

When what we leave behind
becomes more important
than the opportunities that lie ahead:

Loving God, forgive us.

When in times of crisis
we only focus on the danger
and not the opportunities
or the change points available:

Loving God, forgive us.

Help us to seek you afresh
and to recognise you in new ways
even when those ways feel unfamiliar.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's love is open to all,
when we repent
and seek to change our ways,
God is ready to draw us in,
back into loving arms.

Know that you are loved and forgiven:
thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
there are people around the world
who can understand the trauma of our Gospel reading
because their lives are being torn apart
by those who have power in our world.

For the people who have seen
their cities and countries
torn apart by warfare;
**we pray, O God,
grant them healing and hope.**

For the people whose lives
have been torn apart by racial profiling
and illegal deportations:
**we pray, O God,
grant them healing and hope.**

For the people whose disabilities
mean they experience exclusion
and are torn from their society
by rejection:

**we pray, O God,
grant them healing and hope.**

For the families torn apart
by domestic and family violence
that diminishes all who experience it:

**we pray, O God,
grant them healing and hope.**

For all those who struggle
with what the future may hold
and live in uncertain times:

**we pray, O God,
grant them healing and hope.**

For the people who cause disruption,
pain,
struggle,
and torn apart lives:

**teach them, O God,
to live with healing, hope, and compassion.**

For us and our community,
as we face the future
being your church in this time and place:

**teach us, O God,
to live with healing, hope, and compassion.
Amen.**

After Communion

We thank you, God of compassion,
that you have nourished us
with the bread of life
and the wine of hope.

As in Christ your love flowed out to those around him,
so let your love flow through us to others.

As in Christ your life was broken,
so let your life meet us in our brokenness
and release hope in us and others,
through Jesus our hope and our life.

Amen

Benediction & Blessing

We go out, knowing God is with us,
God is before us,
God is beside us.

And we go knowing the blessing of God:
Parent, Christ, and Spirit,
in our lives
today and all days.