

# *Looking forward*



Elaine Ledgerwood

St Aidan's Uniting Church  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Call to Worship

Sing a new song to the Lord!

**Sing, and rejoice, and be glad!**

We sing in celebration,  
not because things are perfect now,  
not because we have everything right,  
but because God loves us  
and companions us on our journey.

**We come together as a community  
and together we worship God.**

## Prayers

God of the past and future,  
we look backwards and look forwards  
and we do not always get it right.

When we look at our past  
and remember it with too much nostalgia  
or look forwards  
and want everything to be the same  
as what we have known:

**God of our past, call us to reality;**

**God of our future, grant us hope.**

When we look at what we have lost  
and want it too much,  
so we fail to live in the present  
or to recognise the possibilities of the future:

**God of our past, call us to reality;**

**God of our future, grant us hope.**

When our present is unsettling  
and leaves us stressed or anxious  
because it is not what we knew  
or we are uncertain how to respond:

**God of our past, call us to reality;**

**God of our future, grant us hope.**

When our future scares us  
because of changes that we do not want  
or choices being taken away

**God of our past, call us to reality;**

**God of our future, grant us hope.**

God of all time,  
you journey with us  
and call us back to faithfulness,  
not faithfulness to tradition or ideas,  
but faithfulness in relationship with you.

Forgive us, God of past, present, and future,  
when we fail to focus on our covenant  
and let the little details that give us comfort,  
get in the way of building our relationship:

**God of our past, call us to reality;**

**God of our future, grant us hope. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

God has offered us a covenant relationship  
and is faithful to that covenant  
regardless of how we respond.

When we confess and repent,  
seeking to change our heart  
and change our ways,  
God is faithful and forgives us,  
helping us to start again.

Know that you are forgiven:

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,  
sometimes our world feels like a hard place,  
we have idealised a vision of a future  
where everyone knows they are loved,  
and yet time and time again,  
that vision fails to materialise.

We pray for people who are stuck in the past,  
who cannot see past what was  
nor look to a new future:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for those whose present is tough,  
who are so focused on mere survival,  
that they cannot think  
beyond their day-to-day needs.

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for those who can only look to the future  
because their present is so hard  
or their past is so horrific:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for those who need to know your peace,  
not at some random time in the future,  
but know it in the present:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for those  
who have lost all hope,  
who do not want a future,  
or cannot see how it can be any better  
than what they have now:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for those who have suppressed their past  
because it is too horrible to remember,  
or is too full of trauma:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.**

We pray for this community,  
that we may look to your future with hope,  
and not hang onto past ideas,  
that are mis-coloured by fond memories,  
or desire not to change:

**teach us to share your hope  
and be an answer to their prayers.  
Amen.**

### Benediction & Blessing

We go out from this place,  
aware that God is our past, present, and future:  
that the promises of the past,  
continue through our present  
and give us hope for our future.

We go knowing that God goes with us:  
God the Parent,  
Christ, our companion,  
and the Spirit who inspires our life.