

Reign of Christ



St Aidan's Uniting Church
23rd November 2025

Call to Worship

Come, people of God,
out of the shadows of fear and weariness,
into the light of Christ's reign.

**In Christ we see the fullness of God,
the One who holds all creation together.**

When the world feels overcome by darkness,
Christ is still supreme,
reconciling all things through the power of his cross.

**Let us lift our voices in praise,
for we belong not to the realm of night
but to the kingdom of Christ, our Lord.**

Prayers

God, whom we liken to a king,
we pray for your reign on earth,
and yet we fail to enact it
or we misunderstand
what it means.

When we use religion to bully,
or assume that if people are not like us,
they must be wrong:
in your grace, forgive us.

When we get caught up
on having rules about living
and fail to understand the impact
of our different contexts,
in your grace, forgive us.

When we blindly support politicians,
and even use Bible verses to justify it,
when they need challenging
to encourage them to live out love,
in your grace, forgive us.

When living out your reign
becomes too hard to be bothered,
in your grace, forgive us.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's grace is a gift for all,
know that when you repent,
seeking a changed heart
and changed ways,
you are forgiven:
thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

From Christmas Bowl 2025 resources

God of compassion and justice,
we bring before you the people of Zimbabwe,
facing the hardships of drought, flood, and
changing climate.

Grant wisdom and courage to communities
as they turn to climate-smart farming,
seek access to clean water, and strive for
secure livelihoods.

May their work bring nourishment and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring connection
between churches in Australia and communities
in Zimbabwe.

Bless the partnerships that share knowledge,
resources, and encouragement.

May these relationships continue to sustain both
displaced families
and host communities with resilience and dignity.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember all who are hungry, weary, or without safe shelter.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that they may find courage in adversity,
and joy in the fellowship of neighbourly care.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guide your Church here and throughout the world
to stand alongside our sisters and brothers
in Zimbabwe,
as signs of your kingdom of justice and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen.

Dedication of the Bowl

Australian churches through the Christmas Bowl, have acted together to bring peace and hope into the world for 76 years.

Help us continue to act for peace.

As children of God, we will share this year's bowl with people around the world who are uprooted by conflicts and disasters, searching for a safe place to belong.

May their lives be filled with hope and peace.

Gracious and ever-loving God,
Open our hearts so we may courageously act for peace in the world.

Open our hands to share what we have with those who have little.

**As we dedicate this bowl,
may it be filled with the fruits
of hope, peace, joy and love,
so that all people may know Your goodness
and receive Your grace.**

Amen

Benediction & Blessing

When we challenge the strength of oppressors,
when we work to a time where the poor have enough,
and would-be kings are kept in check,
then we live as the body of Christ
in our time and place in this world.

So go out knowing God is with you:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
God is with you and beside you
wherever you go in the world.