



St Aidan's Uniting Church
21st December 2025
Christmas

Introduction

Our society has romanticised Christmas.

Today it is all about happiness, enjoyment, frivolity. And of course, presents. Lots of presents.

This makes Christmas hard for the many people who are isolated, grieving, or struggling in their relationships. There are so many different reasons you may find Christmas a difficult time.

Take a moment to look around. You are not alone in that feeling. Others have come here tonight because they feel the same way. Tonight, as we come together, we become part of a community. We can remind each other there are others who understand; and when we face Christmas with all our baggage, we can remember this night and now we are not alone.

Christ candle

This candle has been part of our journey for the last year. It is the Christ candle. Its light reminds us the light of Christ – a light that pushes back the darkness – will always shine.

Prayer

Loving God,
we all carry our own pain,
hurts that we have experienced,
and traumas that continue to resonate.

At this time of the year
we see our pain being dismissed
or minimised
amidst the celebrations
that our society does not want to interrupt.

Hold us in our hurts,
remind that we are not alone.

God, human and divine,
coming as a fragile child,
and knowing all of what it means to be human,

our fragility,
our grief,
our hopes,
our fears.

Walk with us this Christmas-tide,
companion when we feel loss,
and shine a light that shows us a future of hope.
Amen.

Light a candle

We light a candle of hope.

We might not feel hope at this time,
but this candle will hold hope for us
to remind us the darkness we experience
is not the end of the story.

Prayer

Sometimes, loving God,
our hearts feel empty –
empty because we feel alone
and want the comfort or companionship
of another person.

Sometimes, compassionate God,
we simply need to know
there is someone else who cares.

As we approach the Christmas story,
remind us again that you know
what it is to be isolated and alone.

Remind us you understand
when we simply need to experience
the care of another person.

Remind us again
that your love transcends all barriers –
barriers that we put up as individuals,
and barriers imposed on us
by our country and culture.

This Christmas,
in the story of a family far from home,
far from the people they loved,
help us feel your presence and love
in our lives.
Amen.

Light a candle

This is the peace candle.

I pray that each of you
may experience some peace
amidst the turmoil of life
and that 'peace on earth'
may also be the reality in your life.

Prayer

Loving God,
our friend and guide,
we pray for the people
who today need to know they are loved.

We pray for the outcasts in our society,
who struggle to find community
or are bullied by others
and pushed away.

We pray for people
who are outcasts in their families,
rejected by those people
where love and compassion is expected.

We pray for all these
to be surrounded by your love,
held in your arms,
and be nurtured by you.
Amen.

Light a candle

This is the joy candle.

It can be hard to feel joy
when life is difficult;
but joy is different to happiness –
a kind word from a stranger,
a cuddle from a pet,
a beautiful flower in the bush –
may a moment of joy break into your life.

Prayer

God our parent,
who loved us into being
and called us your family,
remind us that you open your arms
and welcome us
even when no one else does.

Remind us that
in the Christmas story
you reached the outcasts
and shared the joy with them;
you connected to the ones
whom society did not want to know
and entrusted them
with your message of hope.

Remind us,
when we feel lonely and alone,
that it was not to the ones
surrounded by family and friends
that the angels –
God's messengers – came,
but to those on the fringes.

Help us hear your word to us
in new and fresh ways
so that we may know
your love and support
when life feels hard.
Amen.

Light a candle

This candle is for love.

The more we share love,
the more we have
and the more we experience it;
without first knowing what it is to be loved,
it is hard to share.

Even if you are separated from your loved ones,
may you remember that experience
of being loved.

Prayer

There is something magical about lighting a candle.

If we were in darkness,
then we would see the light more clearly.

Take a moment to think of someone –
anyone –
who has held a light for your darkness,
no matter how small that light is,
or how fragile it seems:
for all these people we give thanks
and pray for them and their needs.

May you at this time
experience a light in your darkness
and remember there are those
who will help you to hold that light.

You are invited to come and light a candle
and watch what happens –
sharing the light does not diminish the candle,
but simply spreads the light that little further.

[People come forward and light one or more candles.]

We hold all these prayers before you, O God,
and pray that although our hearts are heavy,
although Christmas is a struggle,
we may be able to see glimpses of your light
this Christmas-tide;
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

Go out into the summer night,
see Christmas star shining brightly in darkness,
and remember the angels' message
of peace to all.

Go in peace knowing God is with you:
God the Parent, Christ, and Spirit
is beside you and before you
to comfort and guide you
wherever the path of life leads.
Amen.