



Freepik

St Aidan's Uniting Church
7th December 2025
Advent 2

Call to Worship

From Christmas Bowl resources

Come, people of hope, to the God who gathers
the scattered and heals the broken.

Here we stand in Advent waiting, longing for peace
and justice to break forth.

We hear Isaiah's promise: a shoot from the stump, a
reign of wisdom and equity.

We look to Christ, whose welcome embraces the
stranger, whose Kingdom restores the exiled.

**Come, Spirit of hope,
breathe new life into weary hearts.
Come, Prince of Peace, we wait for You.**

Candle

This is the hope candle.

It is a candle that shines brightly in darkness,
and shares its light generously.

This is the peace candle.

Its light seeks to shine in all corners of the world:
"Peace on earth" the angels sang.

Peace is something we do,
it is not a passive absence of conflict,
rather it only comes as we work for justice.

We light the candle of peace.

Prayers

Peace-making God,
as we thank you for the gift of peace,
we also know we have not always lived in peace.

As we bring our confessions,
help us to commit ourselves once again
to peace for all your world.

When we expect
the lion feeding like an ox
to be a change that others have to make
and not a change for ourselves:

teach us again your way of peace.

When we spiritualise peace
as something for our own internal state
and forget peace is broader –
something for all people:

teach us again your way of peace.

When we neglect to wage peace
with the same intensity
that others would wage war:

teach us again your way of peace.

When we forget that in order to have peace
we first need to ensure justice:

teach us again your way of peace.

When “peace” becomes an excuse
to not engage and not think
or to not see how others are treated:

teach us again your way of peace.

Teach us again to live
as if in your peaceable kingdom,
to follow in your footsteps
and live your vision of peace on earth.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.

Know that you are forgiven: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Intercession

From Christmas Bowl resources

God of refuge and strength,
we pray for those who live in exile, longing for
a home they may never see again.

We lift before You the people of Syria and
Palestine who have found shelter in Jordan.

For families who carry stories of loss and hope,
for children who grow up between worlds,
for youth searching for dignity, work,
and belonging—

Lord, in Your mercy, be their strength.

We give thanks for the work of the Department of
Service to Palestinian Refugees,
and for the Forsa youth program:
empowering young people to learn, to create,
to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Bless their hands and minds as they study,
work, and dream of new futures.

We pray for leaders and nations:
that they may honour human dignity,
open doors to the displaced,
and seek peace beyond fear and division.

We pray for Your church in Jordan and across
the Middle East:
that it may embody the hospitality of Christ,
standing with refugees,
proclaiming that hope cannot be extinguished.

God of the shoot that grows from the stump,
make us signs of Your promise—
that despair may give way to resilience,
and exile to belonging.

Through Christ, our hope and peace. **Amen.**

After Communion

**We thank you, Christ our companion,
that you have welcomed us to your table
to be fed and nurtured, so we may be restored
to imitate you in our lives sharing love and grace,
like you did, in anticipation of God's holy reign.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

We are the people of hope,
and God sends us
to gather the scattered
and help heal the broken.

We are the people of peace,
bringing peace and justice
when the world needs reminding
of a different way.

And take that peace,
live that peace,
so the people around you, may too,
experience peace in their lives.

Go knowing that God is with you,
beside you, before you –
God the Parent, Christ, and Spirit. **Amen.**