

Ministry of all



St Aidan's Uniting Church

18th January 2026

Epiphany 2

Call to Worship

To the church of God that is in Claremont,
to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints;
in other words, to everyone here –
called, gifted, and made holy –
God bids you welcome.

**Let us respond to this welcome
and worship God.**

Prayers

God of grace,
you have called us and equipped us
with all the gifts we need
to share your grace with our world.

As we give thanks
for your many good gifts in our lives,
we know that we have not always used them well,
or put them at the service of your reign.

When we view grace
as being in limited supply,
or only applicable to people “like us,”
when we treat grace
as part of a bargain,
or something that we can earn,
God of all people, forgive us.

When our gifts become a bargaining chip,
or a way of ranking ourselves
against your other beloved children;
when we only see our value
in terms of what we can do,
forgetting the greatest gift is love,
God of all people, forgive us.

When we forget we are all called to ministry,
and together called to be your “holy ones;”
when we deny being saints,
because we place saints on a pedestal
and forget they are ordinary people,

God of all people, forgive us.

Help us to find new and fresh ways
to live out your mission to our world
so that we may live out our greatest call
to help let all people know
they are truly and deeply loved.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's grace is a gift to you,
unmerited,
unable to be earned,
but shared with overwhelming generosity
for all God's people.

In that grace, you are forgiven
and helped to start again:

thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
the world feels like a mess
and the pain of the people
in many different parts of our world
is all too real.

We watch or read the news
and it is overwhelming for us –
hypersonic missiles hitting Ukraine,
a mother shot in the US,
a local author arrested
on child exploitation charges.

If that is how we feel,
what must it be like
for the people in those places
and directly affected by those actions?

What can we do, O God,
but weep with those who are weeping,
and feel the pain of those who hurt?

It feels like nothing – less than nothing –
sometimes it feels like emptiness
and helplessness
to only be able to do so much.

But this is all we can do,
and we can pray,
so we lift up our prayers
and cry our laments
for the state of our world,
hear our prayer, O God.

Melt the hearts of stone,
bring relief to the suffering,
and, where we can,
show us how we can use our gifts
and be your saints,
and work for your reign to come.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

For these gifts of the earth, Creator God,
made special to us through your blessing,
we give you thanks
and pray that you will strengthen us
to be your people in our context,
caring for the creation
that relies on our compassion.

As we reflect on the small portions
that we have consumed,
teach us to go away hungry –
hungry for justice,
hungry for hope,
hungry for a world in which all may live in peace.

Strengthen us through Christ the Human One
to be bearers of your love
to all your world.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We go out to be God's holy ones
in our time and place,
sharing God's love with our community,
and walking in the footsteps of Christ.

We go out knowing that God goes with us:
God the Parent, Child, and Spirit.

Amen.