



St Aidan's Uniting Church
4th January 2026
Christmas 2

Call to Worship

Jeremiah 31:10-14

“Hear this, nations! God’s Message!

Broadcast this all over the world!

**Tell them, ‘The One who scattered Israel
will gather them together again.**

From now on he’ll keep a careful eye on them,
like a shepherd with his flock.’

**I, God, will pay a stiff ransom price for Jacob;
I’ll free him from the grip of the Babylonian bully.**

The people will climb up Zion’s slopes shouting with joy,
their faces beaming because of God’s bounty—

**Grain and wine and oil,
flocks of sheep, herds of cattle.**

Their lives will be like a well-watered garden,
never again left to dry up.

**Young women will dance and be happy,
young men and old men will join in.**

I’ll convert their weeping into laughter,
lavishing comfort, invading their grief with joy.

**I’ll make sure that their priests get three square meals a day
and that my people have more than enough.’”**

Let us celebrate with joy and worship God.

Prayers

Loving God,
as we look back on the year that was
and forward to a fresh, new year,
we pray that you will help us
to live following your calling
and love other people as you love us.

When we look back at what was
and see it as something to be kept
regardless of its relevance;
when we follow tradition mindlessly
and want to keep everything the same,
forgive us, loving God
and help us start again.

When we look to the future with fear
because we have forgotten about our past
and the promises you have made
and the promises you have kept.
forgive us, loving God
and help us start again.

When we expect that our responses now
can be the same as our responses yesterday,
forgetting that our lives
and our contexts
have change,
forgive us, loving God
and help us start again.

Help us to look to you
in new and fresh ways in the year to come,
help us to commit ourselves again
to walk on the paths
to which you call us,
Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are the adopted children of God,
and you are loved and cherished
as are all God's children.

Know that you are forgiven:
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
while the year that was is over,
we know there are many people
who carry their hurts with them
and the pains continue into the new year.

We pray for the people around the world
who live in war zones,
who see their rights being stripped away,
or who are unable to care for their families.

We pray for people in Australia
who are scapegoated because they
are easy to pick on,
or exist on the margins of our society,
or whose pain we do not want to acknowledge.

We pray for the members of our community,
the hidden pains that we cannot see
as we walk out streets
or talk to our neighbours.

We pray for the members of our congregation
as they seek to walk in your footsteps
drawing on their traditions for a new time.

Finally, we pray for those who help,
those for whom helping is their profession,
the people who volunteer,
and those who respond in an ad hoc way.

May your reign come, O God,
on earth as in heaven,
until all people can live in a safe space
and truly know your love,
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

God of love,
we give you thanks
for satisfying us with this meal.

Send us from here
to reveal your love in the world.

Inspire us to use our words
to point others to Emmanuel,
God with us.

Inspire in us the resolve and the courage,
the compassion and passion
to do justice,
love kindness
and walk humbly with you.
Amen.

Liturgy from <https://koonungheights.unitingchurch.org.au/sermons/year-c-sermons-november-2021-november-2022/christmas-eve-liturgy-and-communion-2021/> (adapted)

Benediction & Blessing

Go out into the new year,
knowing the joy of a fresh start
and a tradition that gives hope.

As you go, remember God is with you,
beside you, and before you –
God the parent, Christ, and Spirit.
Amen.