
**March 13, 2022
Second Sunday
in Lent**

Acknowledgement of Country
St Georges Uniting Church, Eden
acknowledges that we are on the
traditional lands of Aboriginal people.
We pay respect to the Yuin people,
especially to their elders past and present,
and recognise the continuing gift of their
culture to the life and spirit of Australia.

Welcome:
The theme for today is “Hens and foxes”



CALL TO WORSHIP

What is it like to be loved by God?

It's like basking in the winter sun blazing through a window.

It's like diving into cool water on a scorching hot day.

It's like being surrounded by the warm laughter of good friends.

It's like being nestled within the downy wingspan of a mother hen.

It's like being gathered into a compassionate community that comes together to sing and learn and pray.

**And now let's sing together:
No 393 from *Songs of Fellowship*
"Morning has Broken"**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gather us into your goodness, gracious God,
open wide your embrace so that we all find room
within it,

reassure us with words of empathy and
encouragement,

bless us with peace,

that in this time of worship we might rest a while in
your care.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mother hen God,

when we hear you sending out chortles of warning,

telling us to watch out for danger and return into the
shelter of your care, and go our own way regardless,

be merciful to us

God of grieving,

we know the pain of rejection, of broken promises and thwarted dreams, of being in places where we are not welcome, of being ignored or scorned, when we need you comfort and care,
open your arms to us.

God of lament,
when we face our regrets, for failed relationships, missed opportunities, broken promises and harsh judgements
lament with us.

God of freedom,
when we tie ourselves up in knots of envy, looking through perfectly choreographed pictures of other people's lives and start resenting what they have,
untie us.

God of wisdom,
when we find ourselves fooled and out foxed, living in the shadows of shame and embarrassment,
be kind to us.

God of possibility,
When we find ourselves anxious of what is to come, looking ahead with a sense of trepidation, and considering burrowing away, when we actually need to feel the stirring of hope within us,
send your Spirit to us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When we fail, when we grieve, when we are full of regret and shame, when we are anxious and uncertain, Christ longs to gather us up into the warmth and shelter of his care. When we long for the shelter of God's loving kindness, we are always welcomed into God's wide embrace. This is not a false

promise, it is a rock-solid guarantee on which we can rely.

FIRST BIBLE READING: Psalm 27 read by Barry

KIDS' TALK: Lyn

**And now let's sing together:
No 357 from *Songs of Fellowship*
"Lord Jesus Christ"**

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

God of grace and mercy,
the breadth of your goodness to us flabbergasts us,
the shelter you provide for us is unfailing
your compassion withstands the mightiest of assaults.
When we are weary,
and need a safe haven,
we are gathered beneath your wings,
we feel your protection,
your heartbeat assuring us that all will be well.
Within the embrace of your care
we regain our strength and courage
and find the will to emerge from where we have been
hiding
and stride out into the world
to keep living a faithful life.

SECOND BIBLE READING: Luke 13:31-35 read by Barry

Paul will now deliver the sermon

**And now let's sing together:
No 510 from *Songs of Fellowship*
"Spirit of the Living God"**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The act of faithfully and consistently giving our offering is a sign that we believe in the unfailing nature of compassion, hope and justice.

A Retiring Offertory opportunity is located in the rear of our congregation.

Otherwise please consider making your offertory by Direct Debit to

Account Name – St Georges UC-General

BSB Number – 641 800

Account Number – 200354335

OFFERTORY PRAYER

May these gifts provide protection for those in peril,
nourishment for those who hunger,
peace for those in turmoil,
hope for those who fear what might come
and comfort for those in distress.

STEVE WILL Now LEAD THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for our world, for people and places we know are in harm's way.

For those who live with the hovering threat of climate change, particularly the animals, plant life and people of coastal communities and the polar regions.

May we do what we can to reduce this harm.

For those who live in places where there continues to be war and conflict. For those who live with the constant fear of being harmed.

May we do what we can to offer shelter and protection.

For those who are oppressed and denied liberty, those who have been imprisoned for demanding human rights or because they stand against despotic regimes.
May we hear their calls for justice and stand in solidarity with them.

For those living in refugee camps and asylum centres who have fled their homes fearing they are no longer safe. For those who are homeless, couch surfing or living on the streets.

May we do what we can to keep them safe.

For those situations, people, and places that we don't know about.

May there be people of goodwill nearby to protect and care for them.

Now I ask Michael to lead us in the service of Holy Communion.

**And now our final hymn:
No 120 from *Songs of Fellowship*
"The Servant King"**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

We have been embraced in the loving wingspan of God, we have been sheltered and protected, nurtured, and cherished, and now we are ready to take leave and head out into the world. But we don't go alone, the Spirit accompanies us, offering us support and encouragement in all we do. Go in peace.