

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Sunday 10 May, 2020

Theme - Making room

Call to Worship

Come and enter into the house of God.
Find warmth and belonging here.
Know that all are welcomed and wanted.
Here there is room enough for all.

As we gather today we come with our whole selves knowing that God's invitation is to the fullness of life. Come, let us worship together.
Gathered and called let us worship God.

Song 1 - Give me joy in my heart (Sing Hosanna)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21RHemxzb8U>

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we have come this day with our whole selves, so have we brought those parts we would rather not mention: the smallness of mind, the hardness of heart, our tendency to close ourselves off. Yet you have made room for us even in our weakness and imperfection, and so we come confessing those parts we would rather not admit to. We confess we have not always believed in your readiness to love, believing instead that there is no room for us or for some 'other' of our choosing within the household of your kingdom.

Help us to see in the midst of our blindness,
help us to make room for all.

We confess there are times when we have closed ourselves off from those who are different. Out of fear and indifference, we have sought those with whom we agree. At times, we have even declared those who are different as wrong, misguided or even bad.

Help us to see in the midst of our blindness,
help us to make room for all. **Amen**

**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.

Words of Assurance - Hear these words of assurance:

Our God is 'a rock of refuge' who offers shelter and steadfast love. Though we are blind, God loves us still and offers us the sight of new life in Christ. In Christ, we are loved and forgiven, made whole and offered new life. Thanks be to God.

Song 2 - I Believe - Graham Kendrick

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJmnpCnWbSE>

The Receiving of God's Word

A prayer for the hearing of God's word

*O Lord our God, you have given your word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Grant us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Bible reading - Please read John 14:1-14

Sermon - 'Making Room' - A sermon by Allan Gibson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJEUMcxY6uM>

Song - I heard the Voice of Jesus Say - Recited by Michael Palmer

The Recital - by Michael Palmer - <https://youtu.be/rgyyuXM0T2w>

The Hymn (omitting the 4th verse) - from Emu Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuFEDPfgbmE>

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Gracious God, whose deep love is beyond our comprehension and who gives it so gladly and with such abandon, we are so thankful for your generous life. You delight in the kaleidoscope of creation, inviting us to be inventive in our living that we might share in your gladness.

We give thanks this day for the beauty of our human family: for the rich diversity of peoples you have created and for the many ways of living you have stirred up in us. Above all, we give thanks for the many rooms you have created in love for all to be housed in you. Gather the whole human family into your love, we pray. **Amen.**

A prayer of Offering

Generous God, we give thanks for the many gifts we have received from you. We now offer, in gratitude, our lives and of our resources what we can share, that others may also receive your blessing. **Amen.**

(A Climate Justice Prayer from Caritas Australia)

We pray for the waters of the world, that they may be restored to health and filled with bountiful life.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for Earth's soil, that its richness be protected to assure abundant harvests for all.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all creatures who share Earth with us, that their beauty and diversity will be preserved.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for future generations, may they learn from our environmental irresponsibility, and be good stewards living simply and in harmony with all your creation.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all human beings, that we will be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; and live as responsible stewards protecting and respecting this gift of creation God has placed in our hands.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for wisdom for decision makers in Australia and around the world, that wealthy nations may make amendments for the harm they have done to the environment and find creative and just solutions to protect all of creation [and ensure climate justice.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

For all of the intentions we hold silently in our hearts.

God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

A General Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,

we come with open hearts and hands

willing to do what we can in your kingdom.

We pray for our neighbourhood for people struggling with anxiety and depression for those who deliver and receive food assistance. Help us to be not just people who live alongside one another, but in community.

(A time where general prayers could be offered.)

We pray for our church you have gathered us to be in Eden, help us to live out and share the love we have known. May we be your hands and feet in the world. Give us hope, wisdom and strength. **Amen.**

Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper

(** Before proceeding - Please prepare your own bread and juice/wine.)

Hymn to introduce Communion - My Saviour My God -

by Aaron Shust - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96P0bwvpbk4>

(The communion words can be found on a separately printed document or on-line at either our Eden UC webpage or on our Eden UC Worship and Faith Conversations Facebook page or go directly to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmYeOR-zYdg> .)

Commissioning and Benediction

God's house has many rooms

and God is always ready to welcome. As we go from this place, may we make room in our lives for those whom God gives us to love even the ones we least expect.

Go in the love and peace of God

and the grace and goodness of the Christ,

empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Concluding Song - St.Richard's Prayer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERYAZRw_dLs