

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Sunday 28 June, 2020

Theme - With open Arms

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome.

We are called together by the Christ. We called in obedience to his word. We are called in the Spirit of love. All are welcome, for the undeniable grace and love of God bids us come. Let us worship the living God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy one,
ancient of days and yet eternally present, we come, responding to your welcome, remembering that we are your beloved children;
recalling your goodness and grace; knowing that we will find fullness of life here. Unite us with one another in your love.
Come and let us be renewed yet again. Amen.

Opening Song: *Raise A Hallelujah* (Lyrics) ~ Bethel Music

<https://youtu.be/e3RRU25dpPg>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You are present in every place and every time embracing all creatures and all things in love, sustaining all that is in grace. We acknowledge that our lives are but a pale reflection of your goodness.
We are sorry that we are content to seek our own security and to live with divisions rather than welcome the stranger.
We are sorry for the times when we have turned our backs on the need of another. Forgive us, we pray, for every harsh act, every unkind word, and every negative gesture that separates us from others.
Help us to follow your way of unconditional love and always to act for the sake of the common good. Have mercy upon us, we pray. **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

Even in our many shortcomings, the forgiveness we seek is offered freely. By the grace of God, we are forgiven.
By the salvation of Christ we are set free. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

How can we ever thank you sufficiently,
God of mercy, God of wonder, God of eternal grace?
When yet we were far from you, you drew us to yourself, enabling us to be aware of your desire to be near us.
You look upon all creatures with the kindness of a loving mother and a caring father. You are always at the work of creating and recreating, reconciling all things to yourself, and so we declare our adoration, praise and thanks, seeking to draw ever nearer to you,
the true source of love. Amen.

Song of Praise: Oh Jesus I have promised

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A>

BIBLE READINGS – Please read: Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23 & Matthew 10:40-42 (the talk is based on this text)

TALK – With Open Arms by Pam Skelton

Song: *The Summons* by John Bell <https://youtu.be/GiXnbOORTAU>

Song Affirming Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Words Below)

<https://youtu.be/nTG2hLu6ZcA>

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

Words continue on page 3

The Apostles' Creed

Words continued from page 2

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY SONG - All that I am

[https://youtu.be/8dS8xpiotms?
list=PL1JjdJId5uvdGL7A12DYSucFYmf8cpjkv](https://youtu.be/8dS8xpiotms?list=PL1JjdJId5uvdGL7A12DYSucFYmf8cpjkv)

N.B. For those who wish to support the church, you might like to now consider a regular, online deposit to St Georges Uniting Church - General A/c, 641800 200354335 Please put in a notation to indicate 'offertory'. This would mainly support Michael as the minister. Our other mission activities are funded by other means. You can donate to the community pantry online. St Georges UC Eden - Community Pantry 634634 100049376.

For those who wish to contribute to our other outside mission activities the details are St Georges Uniting Church, Mission 641800 200511271. Our current activities are supporting people sorely affected by bushfires and supporting a parish in the most remote and poorest region in Tanzania. Please annotate your giving with 'fires' or 'Rukwa'.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Receive these gifts, O God, brought in response to your call on our lives and the needs of the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ,
saviour, prophet, teacher, friend, we come in obedience to your word to offer our prayers for others. *(Prayer continues on page 4)*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION *(Continued from page 3)*

We pray for those who offer a prophetic word,
your living word, even in the face of derision and hostility. We pray that in welcoming them, we may embody the truth and justice they offer. Grant them strength,
courage and the desire to stay the course no matter what.

We pray for all who respond to your mission by offering help and kindness, even as simple as a cup of water. Merciful God, in the face of the massive needs of our climate and people who suffer, we pray for the conversion of hearts, minds and actions to bring restoration and goodness.

Loving God, we lift before you all who seek healing and help this day. In silence we bring those known to us ...

Loving one, may your way be our way, may your truth be our truth, may your love be our love. In the name of Christ. Amen.

SONG - The Lord's Prayer – <https://youtu.be/NiGSRjNHtCs>

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Let us be bold in speaking the truth.

Let us live lives of compassion and mercy. Let us go from this place to be the servants of Christ.

In all things, may we be prophets of a living hope.

May the word of Christ be in our speaking;
may the grace of God be in our loving; and may the power of the Holy Spirit be in our acting, this day and always. Amen.

FINAL HYMN: Be Thou My Vision

<https://youtu.be/lczmaRem3w4>