

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Sunday 12 July, 2020

Theme - What we sow

Call to Worship

Come, take a seat and settle in.

Here there are stories to be told, ideas to be considered, kernels of knowledge to be planted, and new insights to be gained into what God might be surprising us with today.

Let us gather together in worship.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, as we come to worship today, sow curiosity in our minds, love in our hearts, and a longing for justice in our souls.

This is our earnest prayer. **Amen.**

Opening Song - A Little Bit of love - Graham Kendrick

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CM2NAm_dhdQ&list=RDSsSG_eEyP04&index=18

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
are you with us in the everyday complexities of our lives even when the seeds we sew might only be the best that are available to us at any given time and may not fall on perfectly fertile ground?

Are you there if our decisions are poor; our temptations confound; our intuition is wrong;

or if we are careless with our family and friends? *(Silence)*

God, are you there when the seeds we sow are rotten?
When self-gain and ambition are what drives us; when we lie without batting an eyelid; are blind to injustice; are contemptuous of the poor and we offer no hope for the future? *(Silence)*

Confession continued on page 2

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.

Prayer of Confession *(continued from page 1)*

God, are you there when we must reap what we have sown?
When the harm is done; there in the remorse and shame;
in the regrets or in the contrition and apologies?

God, are you there for your imperfect people? *(Silence)*

We yearn for forgiveness and renewal. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God is always present in every circumstance, throwing the seeds of generous love around, letting them take root no matter the conditions. There is no place where God will not be present.

Let this be our assurance, let this be our peace. **Amen.**

Song of thanksgiving - Goodness of God - Graham Kendrick

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bN8JecImIY&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bN8JecImIY&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-fr&attr_tag=SSaSRoyfQnmF_Ri3%3A6)

[fr&attr_tag=SSaSRoyfQnmF_Ri3%3A6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bN8JecImIY&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-fr&attr_tag=SSaSRoyfQnmF_Ri3%3A6)

Ministry 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 Readings – Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-6 & Matthew 13:1-9

TALK – ‘What we sow’ a sermon by Michael Palmer (See attached)

Song - Courage by Stuart Townend

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRKDWo8JKXg&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRKDWo8JKXg&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-fr&attr_tag=NVi1wk0CuXNc8hHt%3A6)

[fr&attr_tag=NVi1wk0CuXNc8hHt%3A6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRKDWo8JKXg&pp=wgIECgIIAQ%3D%3D&feature=push-fr&attr_tag=NVi1wk0CuXNc8hHt%3A6)

Prayers of Intercession - Pam Skelton

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

God,
your word is like a torchlight that we can use to find our way.
No matter what terrain is before us, your beam of light helps us to get by. When we come across circumstances that trouble us, remind us that your Word is life, and when the way is rough and we feel set upon, don't let us forget all you have taught us. Remind us to joyfully praise you for all the blessings you freely give. Help us to know your law of love -
may our hearts be set on doing your will. **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession

God of generosity,
as we live in this world we see things going pear-shaped: injustices that punish the defenceless; decisions that disadvantage the poor and words that hurt the vulnerable. We realise you place in our hands seeds that can turn these things around.
May we plant peace in places of turmoil and conflict.
May we offer real alternatives to feuding and rivalry as we live in your way of justice and righteousness.
May we plant compassion in places of despair.
May we be ready to offer acts of kindness to people in need.
May we plant hope in places where hope has worn thin.
May we offer a place of safety for those who feel vulnerable and encouragement to those who have lost heart.
May we plant real seeds in the degraded earth, nurture them until they take root and grow into forests and grasslands and bushland that ring with the trilling of birds and the scuffling of echidnas.
Make us generous with your seeds of life.
Encourage us to hurl them around with great abandon, at all times and in every place. This is our prayer. **Amen.**

Song before Communion - God and Man at Table are sat down

by Robert J. Stamps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5GT9fqP4mI>

Holy Communion

Invitation - Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sins and seek to
love in peace with one another.

Prayer of approach -

God of mercy look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling for your glory. in Jesus' name. Amen

The institution of the Lord's Supper - 1Cor. 11:23-26

And so, in remembrance of all you have done for us, we take this bread and this cup, and offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, make worthy by the perfect offering of Christ our great high priest. Holy God -

we offer our thanks and praise. Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours forever and ever. Amen

The Sharing - The body & the blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Song during communion - Remember Me - Graham Kendrick

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZaT-bphlC4&list=RDSsSG_eEyP04&index=2

After communion -

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you as we care for others. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

+ **The Lord's Prayer** (*if not used before*)

Commissioning and Benediction

Let us go to be people of generosity, who, with great abandon, throw and sow seeds of goodwill, kindness and peace wherever we travel. Let us dwell in the abundant love of God, the generous grace of Christ and the rich purpose of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Concluding Song - Anywhere with Jesus - Amy Grant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWFAsqxIZKI&feature=youtu.be>