

Eden Uniting Worship Service

January 3, 2021

Theme: Light Enveloped
Thresholds

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

As the new year begins, we come to worship God.

**We bring with us our hopes and our fears,
our longings and our dreams.**

We are invited into the mystery of God's presence.

**We bring with us a sense of wonder and joy,
of apprehension and excitement.**

We come to encounter the Christ Child,
the light in the darkness, the word made flesh.

**We bring with us open minds and joyful hearts.
Let us worship God together.**

Song 1 - We three Kings - Pentatonix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBuaGe5inNU>

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God of the journey,
be with us as we travel the paths of our lives.
Speak wisdom as we discern what lies ahead.
Lead us, guide us, comfort and call us.
Journey with us in this new year,
that we may know your presence and centre our lives in your love.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, sometimes we wish the path ahead was easy and clear.
After a complicated 2020, where unanticipated complexities brought
anxiety and suffering, we long for the new year to bring relief and
renewal.

We know you are in the suffering, though so often we prefer to ignore
your presence. We know you are the light in the darkness, yet we prefer
the darkness be vanquished entirely.

In this new year, centre us in your hope for the path ahead. Renew our
faith that we may know revelations of your love, no matter the journey.
The year past demanded flexibility, adaptability and grace, sometimes in
ways we did not wish to offer. In this new year, grant us courage, should
the journey require us to take another road.

The year past brought turmoil in every sphere of living. Help us to
pause at the opening of this new year, to encounter you through the
Christ Child, to wonder at the gifts you offer, and listen for your guiding
voice.

Words of Assurance

Lay down your apprehension and rest in the goodness and grace of God.
For the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song - Psalm 147b - Sons of Korah -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3waVHzAcqA>

Bible Readings -

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-14 & John 1:10-18
(See separate 'Bible Reading file')

Bible Talk - Allan Gibson - Light Enveloped Thresholds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6vYzxqrzBQ>

(Kid's Activity Sheet is also provided on-line)

Offertory Sentence

We honour God through the gifts we offer. Let us bring gifts of hearts, minds, body and soul this day.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, source of light for all the world.

This day we bring you gifts of time, talents, relationships, and resources.

Receive them that we may be participants in shining your light.

Use them that they may bring justice and love on earth.

Bless them that they may share abundant life with all.

Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

God who journeys with us,

this day we pray for people and places that seek light. In places of darkness, may the assurance of your light be proclaimed, that still, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

We lift before you those whose burden is heavy, those who are oppressed by tyrants and the powerful. Bring your justice, God of peace.

May we hear your call to solidarity. *(Pause)*

We lift before you those who are poor and do not have enough to eat.

Bring your justice, God of generosity. May we hear your call for equity.

(Pause)

We lift before you those who suffer in body, mind and spirit. Bring your presence, God of healing. May we hear your call to care. *(Pause)*

In the silence, we take time to name those whose challenges we know well, and whose needs we feel acutely. For our friends, families, community we pray... *(Pause)*

Holy God, receive our prayers and shape our living, that we may be bearers of your light and respond to those places of need in our world.

Amen

The Intercessions continue overleaf

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

God of wonder and goodness,

you are the source of light and life.

We give thanks for your gifts great and small:

for stars in the heavens and the mystery of galaxies beyond our reach;

for the laughter of children and the joy of sunshine and blue skies.

We give thanks that you stir in us curiosity for the ways of your creation; that you move us to new discoveries that reveal your presence in the universe, and that you encourage our imaginations that we may seek you and find you in unexpected places.

For moments of light and life, we give thanks.

For moments of encounter and mystery, we give thanks.

For moments of joy and amazement, we give thanks. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,

Hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into this new year with joy and wonder,
shining the light and life of Christ in the world.

May God give you courage, wisdom and hope,
that you may live with boldness,

serve with kindness,

and find joy in unexpected places. Amen.

Concluding Song - The King of Love My Shepherd Is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Au3otElq6D4>