

## **Eden Uniting Worship Service**

January 31, 2021

Theme:

Truth & Trust

### **Call to Worship**

Praise God! Let us give thanks to God with our whole hearts!

In one another's company, together as the congregation of God, we praise God's name.

We come with inquisitive minds and hearts, ready to learn together.

Encountering Christ, brings truth and insight.

We come to seek ways of goodness, justice and faithfulness.

Let us worship God together.

### **Prayer of Invocation**

God who is mystery, and yet made known,  
we come to listen for your voice to each one of us,  
that we may deepen our faith in you. Shape our hearts and our loving,  
Our minds and our living, we pray. Amen.

### **Opening Song - I could sing of your love forever**

### **Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving**

God of life's journey,

today we give thanks for our teachers.

We give thanks for teachers who shape young hearts and minds,  
listen to stories and tend to scraped knees.

We give thanks for teachers who patiently encourage young people to  
find their gifts, who teach kindness and life lessons, alongside  
mathematics and history.

We give thanks for teachers who push the boundaries of knowledge,  
guide experimentation and inspire new discoveries.

*(prayer continues 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 Adoration and Thanksgiving continued from page 1)*

We give thanks for unexpected teachers, those who speak wisdom at  
kitchen tables, show paths of right living, or speak truth in moments of  
uncertainty.

Especially we give thanks for Jesus Christ, truth-teller and eternal  
teacher, for the gifts of teaching and learning, we give thanks. Amen.

We now hear God's word read and explained to us, may God continue to  
teach us. Amen

**Reading 1:** Psalm 111

**Kid's talk-** Pat

**Reading 2 & 3 -** Mark 1:21-28 & 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Sermon:** Michael

**Song 2.** Kneels at the feet

### **Prayer of Confession**

God who seeks goodness and wholeness,  
you have imbued all of creation with love,  
and shown us paths of love.

Love builds up, creating communities of wellbeing.

Forgive us when we do not walk the ways of love.

When harsh words are spoken, or patience runs short,  
when hurtful paths are followed,

forgive us, and show us a better way.

Turn us to you that we may restore places of brokenness.

Help us to build others up in love,

to weave together communities of wellbeing,

to remove stumbling blocks that all may encounter you.

Come, Jesus Christ, source of truth,

show us the ways of truth.

Where fake news corrupts and trust is eroded, call us to account to  
reshape the world around us with honesty and justice.

Plant discerning spirits within us that we may seek your truth and listen  
for your teaching for us this day. Grant us wisdom.

### **Words of Assurance**

God does not abandon us.

Jesus, teacher and guide, offers wisdom and truth.

We are forgiven, built up in love.

The ways of truth and love are open for all to follow.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Offertory Sentence**

We are recipients of so many blessings. This day, with grateful hearts, we return to God, blessings that have first been given to us.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Generous God,

you have given to us love, wisdom, understanding –  
intangible gifts of life.

We open our hands to you that we may offer such gifts to others and  
to the world.

You have given us tangible and concrete gifts –  
money, resources, time and skills.

We open our hands to you that we may offer such gifts to others and  
to the world.

Bless our lives and our offerings this day, we pray. Amen.

Song 3. Cornerstone

### **Prayer of Intercession**

God of all time and space,

as we pray this day we centre ourselves in your love. May our prayers  
and our living build others up in love. *(pause)*

We pray for places of learning. May these be places of kindness, truth,  
beauty, knowledge and understanding. May breakthroughs progress  
society to be a place of wellbeing for all; may discoveries of your  
creation reveal the deep wisdom of nature; and may invention lead to  
paths of peace and healing for all people and the planet.

*(Intercessions continue on page 4)*

### **Prayer of Intercession** *(Continued from page 3)*

We pray for places of healing. Loving God, hear the cries of people,  
communities and families, where division, pain or suffering, dominates  
each day. May love be made known here.

We pray for places of leadership. God of light and life, where leaders  
are given authority and responsibility, may they act with justice. Reveal  
wisdom and speak truth into places of authority. Guide leaders to see the  
needs of the oppressed that they may act with empathy and  
understanding.

Holy God, gather our prayers this day, spoken and unspoken. Hold them  
in tenderness and guide our living, that our paths may be shaped in love.  
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (slide)

### **Notices**

#### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Seek truth, search for wisdom,

desire understanding, and walk in ways of love.

May the love of God enfold you,

the presence of Christ uphold you,

and the wisdom of the Spirit be your guide. Amen.

#### **Concluding Song - I could sing of your love forever**