



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Week one: For a time such as this

Rev Dr Jenny Tymms

To be truly human is to live in community. How strange it is then, to be living through a time when we cannot always meet face to face: when we cannot hug, shake hands, kiss the cheek, pat the back, gather to worship, meet together to celebrate or to grieve.

To be truly human is to be creative. So how good it is to explore ways of caring at a distance: reviving old ways like writing letters, making phone calls, running errands, sending gifts. And extending our use of new ways like texting, emailing, video conferencing, live streaming...

To be truly human is to love. Whether it is love face-to-face or love at a distance. Whether it is love expressed in a small act of creativity and kindness, or love expressed in a word that seeks to nourish faith, hope and meaning in the midst of anxiety or loss.

At a time such as this, we want to be truly human: to value community, to be creative in our ways of caring for others, to love even at a distance. And when it feels like our efforts are much too small to count – to remember the power of that one small gesture when placed in the hands of God.

Suggested reading: Poem: [Loaves and Fishes](#) by David Whyte, *The House of Belonging* © 1996, Many. Rivers Press.