

40 DAYS OF

*Prayer*



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

*renewal*  
SYNOD 38

# renewal

**GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY | SYNOD 38**

As we prepare with anticipation for our 38th Synod, I would like to call the whole church to 40 Days of Prayer. Over six weeks, from 6th April until the 19th May, we will reflect on the theme Renewal: God's Story, Our Story. We will pray for God to do a new thing in our hearts and in the church, and listen to what God might want to say to us as we prepare for Synod.

In this '40 Days of Prayer Resource' you will find:

Reflections:

- Key questions to consider
- Things to pray for
- Prayers

The weekly themes are:

- **Week One** – Abundance: An Extravagant Gift of Love
- **Week Two** – Readiness: Ready for Renewal
- **Week Three** – God's Story, Our Story: Hope Growing
- **Week Four** – The Vine and The Branches
- **Week Five** – The Sower and the Seeds
- **Week Six** – Light in the Darkness

It is hoped that this resource will be shared widely and used by Uniting Church congregations, agencies, schools, small groups, and individuals.

Would you please join us as we pray together and open your own heart up to be renewed in faith for a new season.

Moderator Rev Bruce Moore

Special thanks to the following people for contributing to this resource:

Rev Dominic Chan, Rev Jenny Potter, Pastor Netani Bolatolu, Pastor Mandy Smith, Pastor Lorne Anderson and Katherine Ruhle.

## 24-7 PRAYER DURING SYNOD IN SESSION

This Synod in Session we are launching 24-7 Prayer for the period of the whole Synod meeting – 12pm Friday 16 May to 3pm Monday 19 May. We invite you to be part of this, whether it's attending Synod, with your local congregation or small group, or on your own. To register, contact Paul Wetzig – [prayer@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:prayer@ucaqld.com.au)

# Abundance – An Extravagant Gift of Love

Moderator Rev Bruce Moore

WEEK  
ONE

When was the last time you did something for someone else without any expectations of getting something back in return?

Have you ever received a gift and felt obligated to return the favour, or at least sent a thank-you note? Even the best-intentioned gifts can leave the other person with feelings of guilt.

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we read from the Gospel according to John and hear the story of Jesus sharing a meal with his good friends (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus) and his disciples. In this story John tells us how Jesus came to Bethany and stayed at the home of Lazarus. This was not that long after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. So, of course, Jesus's friends are delighted to host him for dinner. Can you imagine how awkward the dinner must have been? Certainly, they are all overjoyed to have Lazarus back, but we should remember that he had been in a tomb just a few days before. Now he's with them at dinner! This is crazy and almost beyond belief.

Mary is filled with gratitude to have her brother back. She is indebted and loves Jesus so much that she must express it in some crazy way. So, she takes some perfume that she has had stashed away that was the most valuable thing she owned. Without any explanation, she uses it all to anoint the feet of Jesus with her hair. John tells us that its value is equal to a year's worth of wages. Everyone knew it had to be good because the whole house was filled with the beautiful fragrance.

This is a story of abundance. It is a bewildering, extravagant and crazy act of love. This was no ordinary gesture. It was a heartfelt, sacrificial, profound declaration of love and a deep act of gratitude.

When it comes to love, how much is too much? Should we draw lines or place limits on love? Everything we know from scripture assures us that, for

God, there can be no measure of how much God loves us. Jesus' sacrifice of himself, which is foretold in this story of Mary's anointing, is the ultimate expression of such exuberant and extravagant love.

Mary offered up to Jesus all that she had and did not hold back even though she was subjected to criticism about her thoughtless waste of something so valuable.

How often do we hold back, measuring our giving in terms of what it will cost us rather than pouring out our best in faith and gratitude? Do we give of ourselves to God without restraint, all that we have and all that we are?

Abundance is not meant to be hoarded but shared. Every act of giving, whether big or small, mirrors the love and generosity of all that God gave up for us in the giving of his son Jesus. The apostle Paul wrote "that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love" (Rom 8:38-39). God's desire for all of us is that we might know and experience his deep love for us, that we might be transformed and renewed in him.

As we take time out in prayer and reflection during this period of Lent and as we commence these 40 Days of Prayer in preparation for our 38th Synod Meeting it is my prayer that you will know, experience for yourself and be transformed by the extravagant love of God. May your life be renewed afresh by the Spirit and may our church experience reflect God's unlimited love for all people.

I am getting a sense that God's extravagant love might lead us to do something so unexpected, so out of the ordinary, that our friends, and yes even our neighbourhoods and community, will think we've gone crazy... crazy with love!

## KEY QUESTIONS

"Abundance is not meant to be hoarded but shared."

When and how have you shared your abundance?  
When might you have hoarded your abundance?  
How have you experienced the extravagant love

of God? How might you share that love with others in your neighbourhood and community?

## BIBLE VERSES

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Phil 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

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## THINGS TO PRAY FOR

- Thank God for the times when you've experienced the extravagant love of God.
- Thank God for the wonderful gift of creation both in our own backyards, and across the World.
- Thank God for the opportunities the Uniting Church has had to journey with people of all ages in cities, rural and remote areas, and internationally.
- Thank God for the Uniting Church and for the faithful people who have impacted and grown our faith, over many years and in many different ways.
- Ask that God will reveal the areas of our Church where we are hoarding our abundance and prompt us to know where, and how, to share our abundance.
- Ask that God will continue transforming and renewing our Church so that God's deep love may be known and experienced in our neighbourhoods, communities, and organisations.

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect on these words found in the reflection:

**Limit, hold back, measure out, restrain, hoard, waste.**  
What might God be saying to you?

Now, reflect on these words found in the reflection:

**Heartfelt, sacrificial, profound, deep act, ultimate expression of exuberant and extravagant love, poured out, shared, abundance.**

What might God be saying to you?

God of exuberant and extravagant love,  
As we look at our lives, and at our Church, please remind us of the abundance that you have extravagantly poured out on us.

Please reveal to us any areas of our lives where we might hoard, limit, waste, or hold back on sharing your abundance with others.

Renew our desire to allow your abundance to flow through us, and from us so that your deep love may be known and experienced in our neighbourhoods, communities and organisations.

Amen

# Readiness – Ready for Renewal

Rev Dominic Chan, Faith Works Uniting Community

WEEK  
TWO

This week's readings include the readiness to worship God and serve God. The people are ready to welcome Jesus, praise God, and respond to the love of God which endures forever. The disciples are ready to serve Jesus: even when what they are being asked to do is a little unusual.

*What kinds of activities do you like getting ready for?*

The question of readiness is present throughout our whole lives: it can be raised as we (try to) leave the house in the morning, before a presentation at work or school, or maybe it's the question that is asked before church on a Sunday.

When you hear the question "Are you ready?" are you the kind of person who will usually say: "Yes!" or "Not yet"?

Being ready can be about our Skills, our Supplies, and our Spirit.

We can be ready by having the right **Skills**.

If you're ready for the pool then you usually want to be able to swim.

If you're ready to present then you want to speak clearly.

If you're ready to write a reflection then you want to be able to proofread.

As the church, there are so many different skills that people have that contribute to the mission of God in and through the church.

*What skills could be needed for renewal in the church?*

We can be ready by having the right **Supplies**.

When I was in high school we had a camp every year and the motto was "there's no such thing as bad weather, just poor preparation." We had to make sure we had the right clothes, the right food, and the right equipment. We had to ensure that our backpacks were lined with garbage bags so when it rained our stuff wouldn't get wet. We needed to be intentional about the kinds of things we brought with us and the things we left at home so that we reduced rubbish and weight.

*What supplies might we need for renewal in the church and what might God be saying that we need to "leave out of the backpack"?*

We can be ready by having the right **Spirit**.

If we think about "spirit" as being similar to "attitude" then the wrong spirit would be like having a member of your team decide to not care about the team's goals and do their own thing instead. As the church, having the right spirit is knowing that who we are and what we do are in line with God's plan and purpose. Having the right spirit can help us on the journey of growing and learning the right skills, and making sure we have the right supplies.

We can also think about "spirit" as being the Holy Spirit which is the way God joins with us as we follow.

*What do you like to do to help you have the right spirit/attitude?*

*When have you been aware of the Holy Spirit being at work?*

## KEY QUESTION

What are the skills, supplies, and spirit (attitude) that you, and the Church, need to be ready for renewal?

## BIBLE VERSES

Psalm 118:1-2, Luke 19:28-40

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- Thank God for the Uniting Church people who have taught us, mentored us, encouraged us, and led us, throughout the years.
- Ask that new leaders, teachers, and mentors will arise and be ready for where God is leading our Church.
- The staff, students, and families at:
  - Trinity College Queensland
  - Uniting Church Schools and Colleges
  - Uniting Early Learning Centres
  - Raymont College
- Ask that the councils, boards, and treasurers in congregations, presbyteries, organisations, and Synod will have wisdom to prepare, look after, and use our 'supplies' to continue God's work.
- Ask that we may be aware of where the Holy Spirit is already at work and feel the urge to prepare ourselves, and be ready to join in, when God calls us.

## PRAYER FOR READINESS

God of Spirit and Truth,  
You guide us.  
You teach us.  
You prepare the way the way for us.  
Open our ears and eyes to see where you are at work.  
Expand our minds and hearts to the possibilities we often can't even imagine.  
Give us the confidence to get ready.  
To develop the skills,  
To prepare the supplies,  
To mould our attitudes,  
So that we boldly step into, and contribute to, your work here on Earth.  
Amen

# God's Story, Our Story – Hope Growing

Rev Jenny Potter, Central Western Queensland Uniting Church

WEEK  
THREE

I was given a plant just before I left Toowoomba for Longreach, an Anthurium with glossy leaves and bright red flowers. It has produced no flowers since I got here, and over the summer I have watched as old leaves withered and new leaves never made it to maturity. As I look today it has three withering leaves left. It is not looking good.

BUT... I've moved it away from the drying breezes and we've had some cooler rainy weather. At the base of the plant are several new shoots, slowly emerging from the dead stalks that remain. There is hope growing.

There are times when we need signs of new life. I was ordained in December 2015, then life fell apart. Almost immediately my husband Chris was diagnosed with young onset dementia. In 2017 our town, Proserpine, was damaged by cyclone Debbie. By 2019 the better option was for Chris to go into residential care. Within three months he died suddenly, Mum helped me pack up, I started a new placement as a Hospital Chaplain in Toowoomba and bought a house. 2020 had to be a better year, right?

Not quite. I was a hospital chaplain during a pandemic, my Mum was diagnosed with lymphoma. She died within months. In May 2021 I dismantled from my new horse and destroyed my ACL. An abdominal mass diagnosed in 2022 (thankfully benign) required more surgery. In September 2023 I was told that public hospital chaplaincy would no longer be funded in the new financial year.

I look for signs of hope in a new placement. I see the green shoots of new life in a dry land. Shoots of resilience, trust, deepening spirituality, greater maturity and strength. Joy bubbles again.

We read John's gospel knowing the end of the story and so approach it with excitement. We can't wait to get there, we anticipate the empty tomb. I wonder if we really enter into grief and disillusionment with Mary Magdalen and the Twelve? I think it is time in the shadows that makes the brightness of new life shine more brilliantly.

Mary grieves. She goes to serve her Rabbi in the only way left to her - to anoint his life-less body. Then, panic - it is not there! No wonder she could not understand, only go and tell the bald facts to the others. How heartbreaking! Logic says a missing dead body must have been moved, who would do such a cruel thing? She cannot anoint him, cannot grieve alongside his remains. The others come, check the tomb, go home. She stays at the last place she saw him, she checks the tomb yet again - there are figures seated where Jesus had been.

Surely she didn't see these strangers go in? Still focused on finding Jesus, she turns away from their questioning and sees another figure. The gardener? He might know where Jesus' body is! And Jesus says her name. "Mary." Suddenly ... her full attention. "Rabbi!" Good news to share indeed!

## KEY QUESTION

As you reflect on your life and our Church, where have you seen old leaves withering and flowers dying? Are there things that you need to grieve before green shoots of hope can emerge?

## BIBLE VERSES

John 20:1-18, Luke 24:1-12

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## THINGS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- Thank God for the new life and emerging green shoots found across the Queensland Synod.
- Thank God for the compassionate work of Uniting Care Qld and Wesley Mission Qld over many years.
- Thank God for, and pray for, the Uniting Church chaplains and volunteers who bring peace, hope, and love to people in hospitals, aged-care centres, and prisons.
- Ask that God will continue to guide the Uniting Church in how to best care and support people who feel disillusioned, or who are experiencing pain and grief.
- Ask that God will give us a renewed sense of hope for the Uniting Church in Australia.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE AND HOPE

*As you reflect on your life and our Church, where have you seen old leaves withering and flowers dying? Are there situations or relationships that you need to grieve?*

Ever loving God,

We sit with you facing the human reality of our pain, our hurts, our frustrations, and our grief.

It's hard to watch things wither. It's hard to feel like there is no hope.

May we know your deep peace as we grieve, and as we battle with disillusionment.

May we become more aware of your presence in our lives and in the situations where all seems to be lost.

May we hear your voice rise above the pain.

*As you reflect on your life and our Church, where do you see hope growing? What do the green shoots look like and feel like? What can you celebrate?*

Risen God,

Where there was no hope, you sprang to life.

You spoke the word of naming, of being known, into Mary's pain.

We celebrate the new life that you offer to all people.

Please show us how we can best nurture the new life that is springing up around us.

Please give us hearts of compassion, and hands of action so that we can continue caring for those who need your hope and love.

Amen

# The Vine and The Branches

Pastor Netani Bolatolu, Cairns Emmanuel Uniting Church

While I have no experience at all in grape farming, I have some experience in root crop farming, like yam. Late last year I planted about thirty plants of yams around the manse. I am happy at how the vines have grown especially during this wet season and I look forward to seeing its crop at harvest time in 6-8 months.

Even though growing grapes and yams differ, they both grow vines. One bears fruit on its vine and the other has a crop in its root. One thing is certain, that as a farmer/ gardener you expect to reap a crop come harvest time.

While this passage is well known to most of us, I want to draw our attention to what I think is relevant to our season of renewal.

I think we can all agree that the heart of the passage focuses on the importance of 'remaining' (appearing 11 times in the passage, and four times in verse 4 alone).

However, I would like to highlight the work of the Father in the story.

It is clear from this passage that God (the gardener) requires fruit from us (branches). And because He requires fruit from us, firstly 'He cuts off every branch that produces no fruit.'

This phrase suggests a few things about God as a gardener.

Like every gardener, God is prudent. God doesn't think twice about removing branches that do not bear fruit. He cuts them off.

Yes, He's a God who is gracious and loving but when it comes to bearing fruit, God means business. He expects nothing but fruit from us.

It doesn't say He tends to the unfruitful branches, nor prunes them, nor cares for them, instead God cuts them off.

Secondly, God prunes/cleans the branches that are producing fruit so that it bears more. Again, the gardener is clear in his intention which is fruitfulness.

Though the branch may not realise this and may get distracted by the discomfort of being pruned, it will certainly experience greater fruitfulness as a result.

Renewal then, in this passage, comes in two ways. It comes by way of cutting off and by pruning. Both of which are the works of God, the gardener, through His word.

As we continue our journey on renewal, the biggest question is what branches (ministry/relationship/partnership) has God severed and is asking us to let go of so that renewal (fruitfulness) can occur?

And how are we responding to the pruning God is doing by letting go of anything that doesn't align with our pursuit to be fit for his purpose? Whether it's bad habits, pride, bitterness etc, may we persevere in the grace God has given to us.

So just as I'm expecting a harvest of yams in about 6-8 months, God expects fruitfulness from me/us when His harvest time comes, as a result of his renewing work in us. Amen!



## KEY QUESTION

As we continue our journey on renewal, what branches (ministry/relationship/partnership) has God severed and is asking us to let go of so that renewal (fruitfulness) can occur?  
How are we responding to the pruning God is

doing by letting go of anything that doesn't align with our pursuit to be fit for God's purpose?

## BIBLE VERSES

John 15:1-8

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- In the journey of life, we often find ourselves faced Ask that God will give us expectant hearts for an abundant crop.
- Ask that God, the gardener, will continue tending the garden of the Uniting Church.
- Ask that God will clearly show us the areas of our church that need to be cut off, or pruned for renewal to occur and that God will give us the boldness and courage to respond in obedience, the humility to repent when we get it wrong, and gratitude that God can still do something fruitful despite our clumsy pruning shears.
- The new projects, initiatives and ideas that are currently being trialled across the Synod.
- The churches, schools, colleges, and agencies that are making difficult decisions, and for the leaders who mediate and support during these times.

## PRAYER FOR AN ABUNDANT CROP

Imagine what an abundant crop at harvest time might look like for the Uniting Church.

What might God be saying to you about this crop and your role to play?

God of action,

Our minds can't comprehend what you have in store for us.

We are sorry for when we limit you and we don't expect to see a full crop.

We are sorry for when we become distracted and forget to tend the garden you have given us.

Continue to give us a new vision and a renewed expectation for fruitfulness.

Please clearly show us the areas of our church that need cutting off or pruning so that renewal can occur and give us a boldness to do what is needed to bring change, and to produce a full harvest.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your graciousness, and your love.

Amen

# The Sower – New Growth

Pastor Mandy Smith, St Lucia Uniting Church

In Matthew 13 Jesus promises that the word of the Kingdom is miraculously fruitful, yielding 30, 60, 100 times what is sown. But if we're honest, we rarely see that kind of miraculous yield. In our own lives and ministries, in the church around the world, it's often hard to see that kind of growth.

What's gone wrong? Is God's word no longer powerful? Has he forgotten his promises? Have we lost God's favour?

In this parable of the sower, Jesus describes various things that get in the way of the natural growth of the seed.

There are two things I notice when I read this passage:

The sower sows with abandon!

The seed wants to grow.

I've heard from farmers that a stalk usually produces around 7 grains—so one seed usually makes seven. But Jesus says this seed might produce 30 or 60 or 100 times what was sown!

Which makes it pretty remarkable seed.

However, in our ministries we rarely see that kind of yield. So we work harder, try new programs and strategies. Programs and strategies and hard work are all good, but instead of adding, do we ever consider what needs to be removed?

Perhaps the answer is not adding something but removing something. Scripture has a lot of metaphors for removal of things that thwart spiritual growth—purging and purifying and pruning.

There's nothing wrong with the seed of God's word.

It naturally wants to grow and when it's received well it will grow to miraculous measure. So perhaps our best work is to ask God to show us the things we have let get in the way, to set aside old habits and ways of thinking, to reconcile broken relationships, to change church culture, to repent.

We wear ourselves out with trying to add but maybe the call is to remove?

It's a way to trust that nothing has changed about God's abundant sowing of seed in the world, a way to trust that the Gospel still has power to transform lives.

Here at St Lucia, after a three-year Regeneration season, we are discovering new life—growth not only in numbers but in diversity and spiritual passion. We're seeing families and teens become part of the mission here, we're watching people come to know Jesus for the first time. The biggest factor was not my cleverness or our hard work or a new program. The biggest factor was the things we removed—we let go of old ways of making decisions, using resources and setting goals.

Removing things may not seem like good news, but the good news is that we don't have to make the Sower sow, we don't need to force the seed to grow. While removing things may not be fun (and may make people uncomfortable), it is within our power. And when we do what's in our power, we get to watch the power of God's word at work!

May nothing get in the way of the miracles he has promised that his Word can do!

## KEY QUESTION

What might God be asking you to let Him remove in you? In your faith community?  
What new growth might God have in store?

## BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 13: 1-12

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- Thank God for being the Sower who sows with abandon.
- Ask God for wisdom to know what role we play (or don't play) in tending, nurturing, and growing the seeds of God's word in our communities and agencies.
- Ask God to show us the things that we have let get in the way of growth and the changes that may be required for renewal.
- Ask that we would be people who listen - noticing God's presence, voice and leading.
- Ask God to help us step towards reconciliation and the mending of broken relationships.
- Pray for healing for those who have been injured by our Christian community.
- Pray for children, teens, families, young adults - that they may continue to grow and flourish in God's word.

## PRAYER OF FAITH

God of life,

We open our hands to you in surrender.

Hands that strive to do.

Hands that try to make things better.

Hands that want to help.

Please take our hands and use them in ways that will help your seeds grow.

We open our minds to you in surrender.

Minds that work on strategies.

Minds that want to fix and change.

Minds that want to help.

Please take our minds and use them in ways that will help your seeds grow.

We open our hearts to you in surrender.

Hearts that are saddened by the world, and the unfolding events.

Hearts that are angry with injustice.

Hearts that can be filled with apathy.

Please take our hearts and use them in ways that will help your seeds grow.

Thank you for being the Sower who sows with abandon.

Help us trust your plan and give us wisdom to know what role we play (or don't play) in tending, nurturing, and growing the seeds you've planted in our communities and agencies.

Amen

# Light in the Darkness

Pastor Lorne Anderson, Townsville Central City Mission

WEEK  
SIX

When I think about churches and light, a vivid memory from my early teens springs to mind. I was living in Holland, and one particularly cold and dark November evening, my mom invited me to join her at an old stone church to watch a choir she enjoyed. Reluctantly, I left my friends at basketball practice and cycled alone to meet her at the venue.

The church stood on the edge of a small forest, accessible only by passing through iron gates at the end of the stone walls that encircled the adjacent graveyard. In the misty cold drizzle of that dark winter evening, I felt profoundly uncomfortable. Locking my bike and trudging toward the entrance, I grumbled to myself about the “cultural experience” my mom insisted I attend.

Yet, it was in this disquieting darkness that I encountered something utterly transformative.

The church’s large wooden doors had been left ajar, and from the arched stone entrance poured a phenomenal light. It was warm and inviting, sparkling as it caught the tiny raindrops in the air. Accompanying this light was the murmuring excitement of the audience inside and the subtle aroma of coffee and cake. Despite my exhaustion and discomfort, I found the light intoxicating. Intrigue gripped me, and I was irresistibly drawn inside.

Ironically, I have no memory of the concert itself. What remains etched in my mind is the moment when light utterly dispelled both the darkness and my unease.

In the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus spoke of light and a city on a hill, I wonder what emotions his audience felt. I believe he was invoking the image of the temple in Jerusalem and God’s presence pouring out from the Holy of Holies. How many of his listeners would have had the honour of visiting that temple and thus knew the apprehension of entering in.

But Jesus wasn’t inviting them to simply consider the feeling of entering a holy space. His words carried a revolutionary truth: They themselves were now the light of the world. The sacred light was no longer trickling out from a place—it radiated from their very lives. They were now the light meant to dispel darkness with good deeds, to transform cold indifference into warmth and joy, and to illuminate the way, even for teenagers who wished they were still playing basketball. This is how all will come to glorify the Father in heaven. Not because of what happens inside a temple but because of what the Father’s children do with His light within them.

Jesus renewed his audience’s vision from a place, to the potential of their purpose. The sacred light was no longer something to look toward but something to shine outward.

May we also have the courage to let our attention be renewed, turning away from merely inviting people into illuminated church buildings, and toward proactively sharing the light that has been ignited within us. In doing so, may **all** people glorify our Father in heaven.

## KEY QUESTION

What shift in focus might ‘enlighten’ you and your church’s ministry to actively embody the transformative light of Christ in innovative and practical ways?

## BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 5:13-16

## THINGS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- All the Uniting Church communities, churches, and agencies that shine light within our communities.
- Ask God to reveal the areas of our lives, and the Uniting Church, that may be blocking or dimming God's light.
- Ask that God will reveal the places and people in our communities who are living in darkness and give us a renewed vision for how we can shine God's light to dispel the darkness.
- Pray that people who have no community will find a place to belong in the Uniting Church.
- Pray that people will be drawn to God's light through our actions and words.

## PRAYER OF FAITH

*You may like to sit in darkness and watch a candle flicker. What may God be saying to you about the darkness and the light?*

God of Light,

We thank you for your warm, inviting, and intoxicating light that dispels darkness, transforms indifference, and illuminates the way.

We are sorry for the times when our attitudes, traditions, or ignorance have blocked or dulled your light from shining within us, through us, and from us. Please re-spark your light in us and give us a renewed vision for what your phenomenal light looks and feels like so that others are drawn towards you.

Help us be creative, practical, approachable, and open as we are guided and transformed by your light.

Give us the courage to be light shiners not only in our Church buildings but wherever we go.

God, transform the Uniting Church, and our lives.

Amen