

40 DAYS OF *prayer*



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

renewal
SYNOD 39

Invitation from the Moderator

As we prepare with anticipation for the 39th Synod, I invite the whole church to join in **40 Days of Prayer**. The 39th Synod calls us to embrace prayer not simply as an activity, but as a posture of our lives. Renewal is God's work before it becomes our work. Before we plan, build, discern, decide, or act, we are invited to place ourselves before God with open hearts and attentive spirits.

The purpose of these forty days is not simply to prepare for a meeting. It is to prepare ourselves as God's people. As we pray without ceasing, may God renew our hearts, reshape our imagination, deepen our discipleship, and awaken us to God's future.

Over forty days, from **13 Sept to 23 Oct 2026** we will reflect on the theme **Renewal: Praying Without Ceasing**. Together, we will seek God's renewing work in our hearts, our congregations, and across the life of the church. We will pray for God to do a new thing among us and listen attentively for what the Holy Spirit is saying as we prepare for Synod.

This resource has been created to support individuals, families, small groups, congregations, agencies, and schools as we journey together in prayer. Each week includes reflections, Scripture readings, questions for reflection, prayer points, prayers, and family activities centred around a different aspect of prayer and renewal.

Weekly Themes

- **Week One** – Listening in Prayer
- **Week Two** – Beholding in Prayer
- **Week Three** – Reflecting in Prayer
- **Week Four** – Renewing in Prayer
- **Week Five** – Responding in Prayer
- **Week Six** – Perceiving in Prayer

My prayer is that this resource will be shared widely throughout the Uniting Church and that, as we pray together, each of us will open our hearts to God's renewing presence and be strengthened in faith for the season ahead.

May we arrive at Synod not merely informed but transformed; not merely organised, but attentive; not merely gathered, but renewed. And may we leave ready to bear fruit as disciples of Jesus Christ, sent in the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in God's mission throughout Queensland and beyond.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of prayer.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Rev. Bruce Moore

Moderator

24-7 PRAYER DURING SYNOD IN SESSION

This Synod in Session we are continuing 24-7 Prayer for the period of the whole Synod meeting – 12pm Thursday 22 October to 4.30pm Monday 26 October. 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.

Listening in Prayer

1 Samuel 3:1–10

Rev Charissa Suli, President, Uniting Church in Australia

One of the things I love about the story of Samuel is that it begins with someone who has not yet recognised the voice of God.

Samuel is young. He is serving in the temple under Eli when, in the middle of the night, he hears his name: "Samuel!" He assumes it is Eli calling him, so he gets up and goes to Eli. This happens three times before Eli realises what is happening and helps Samuel understand that God is calling.

The story begins in a difficult season. We are told that "the word of the LORD was rare in those days" (1 Samuel 3:1). Yet just a few verses later, we hear these hopeful words: "the lamp of God had not yet gone out" (v.3). I love that image!

Even when the path ahead is unclear, the lamp of God has not gone out. Christ remains with his Church. The Spirit is still at work among us. Perhaps renewal begins here – not in all our plans, but in learning again how to listen.

Samuel did not recognise God's voice straight away. He needed Eli to help him understand what he was hearing. Sometimes we need others to help us listen, too. Discernment is not something we always do alone.

In many Pacific cultures, including my own Tongan and Maori heritage, listening is deeply relational. We listen in community, to our elders and to stories, and we make space to hear one another. Our Covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress also calls the wider Church to listen deeply to First Peoples, honouring their voices, stories and relationship with Country as we continue to walk together.

As we enter these 40 Days of Prayer, perhaps our first task is not to arrive with all the answers but to become still enough to listen. The Uniting Church describes us as a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal, sustained by the Spirit so we do not lose our way. We do not have all the answers for the road ahead. We return to Scripture, listen to one another, and together seek to discern where Christ is leading his Church.

Listening will not always be comfortable. The word Samuel eventually receives from God is difficult. Sometimes the Spirit comforts us, and at other times the Spirit unsettles us and calls us to change. That too is part of renewal.

Samuel finally says:

*"Speak, for your servant is listening."
(1 Samuel 3:10)*

Perhaps that can be our prayer during these forty days: Speak, Lord. We are listening.

Not only, *what do we want for our Church?*
But, *Jesus, what are you saying to your Church?*

When Christ calls us, may the Holy Spirit grant us the humility to listen and the courage to follow.

Reflective Questions

Where might God be speaking in your life, family, community, or Church at this time?
Whose voices might we be missing, and who might God be asking us to listen to more carefully?
What do the words 'listen deeply' mean to you?
What might help us become quiet enough to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"?

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for the many ways God speaks to us - through Scripture, people, creation and the Spirit.
- Thank God for the people who have helped our Church to listen and discern, over many years.
- Thank God for First Peoples and culturally diverse communities, whose voices and gifts enrich the life of the Church.
- Pray that we will be open to learning how to become better listeners and for wisdom to recognise God's voice among the many voices around us.
- Pray for patience for when God's direction is not immediately clear.
- Pray for the Queensland Synod as it prepares to gather, that it may listen deeply for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, see where God is already at work, and discern where God is leading.

Prayer

Before you pray this prayer, take some time to sit and listen.

You may want to darken the room, take off your shoes and feel the ground beneath you, or simply become still in God's presence. Once you have spent time listening, turn on a lamp or light as a symbol that "the lamp of God has not yet gone out".

Listening God, in the noise and busyness of our lives, teach us to be still before you.

Open our ears to your voice, our hearts to your Spirit, and our lives to the way of Jesus.

Help us listen to one another – across generations, cultures and experiences – especially to voices we may too easily overlook.

Speak, Lord.

Your people are listening.

Renew your Church, shape us for your mission, and give us the courage to follow where Christ leads.

Amen.

Breath Prayer

Speak Lord, your people are listening.

Family Activity: Who is Calling?

Choose one person to close their eyes. One at a time, have different family members say that person's name and see if they can recognise who is speaking.

Then read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 together.

Talk together about recognising familiar voices. What helps us become familiar with someone's voice? You might reflect on how we learn to listen for God through prayer, Scripture, worship, other people, silence, creation, and by noticing what is happening around us.

You might wonder together: What could we do this week to make more space for listening to God and to one another?

Beholding in Prayer

Colossians 3

WEEK
TWO

Rev. Suzy Sitton, in semi-retirement, is currently serving as the Central Queensland Presbytery Minister Supply/Deputy Chairperson.

In the bushland beside our home, where we spend time in prayer and quietness, we behold trees where the birds feed, play, and shelter their young. A lively young echidna nuzzles for ants, and wallabies feed at night on fresh green pick.

One can learn a great deal by closely observing two very different native gum trees. The one tree stands strong, straight, and useful for building and construction because its inner heartwood is firm and strong.

The other is sometimes called a widow-maker; its centre has been hollowed out over time, and limbs drop unexpectedly. Harsh weather, fungi, and termites can slowly shape it from the inside out. Yet this tree is not without value. In fact, it plays a vital role in the bush. Its hollows become homes for possums, owls, cockatoos, and many other creatures. What looks empty to us can be full of life.

Paul invites us to set our minds on things above (to behold), not to escape the world but to live with a deeper focus.

Because our life is hidden with Christ, we are held in him. From that place, our perception changes, and we begin to think, choose, and live differently.

Scripture themes warn us not to judge one another by outward appearances... as though strength always looks the same, or usefulness only takes one form. God gives each of us a purpose.

We are not all the same, nor are we meant to be. Some among us are like heartwood: steady, strong, and able to bear the load. Others may feel more like a hollow tree: worn, changed, or less visible in their strength, yet full of life and able to shelter others.

We are one family, learning to belong across differences of age, gender, culture, experience, and ability. Sometimes what looks like loss is actually making room for new life. A tree may shed old limbs, produce flowers, fruit, and seed, and then pass life on to the next generation. In the same way, God continually renews the church. What may look like decline can become a season of passing life forward.

This new way of life calls us to let go of what harms us and others—old patterns of selfishness, anger, greed, and hurtful speech—and to put on the new self, renewed in God's image, and to live with compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, generosity and love.

As we set our minds on things above and focus on Christ's life-giving work, we discover that what looks empty, hollow, or weakened can still be full of purpose.

Where is Christ inviting you to focus your attention?

Spend time in prayer... behold the wonder and delight of the world around you, and see as Jesus sees. Set your mind on Christ. Turn away from what distracts or worries, and turn towards what is lasting and life-giving. Towards a more peaceful way of thinking, a more loving way of living, and a more generous way of belonging. May it be so.

Reflective Questions

Where is Christ inviting me to focus my attention?

What sort of tree might you be? A Heartwood? A Hollow tree? Another type of tree? Reflect on how God may use you?

What old patterns may you, our church, need to give up? What might the 'new self' look like?

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for diversity of the Uniting Church and for all the faithful people who have impacted our faith, over many years and in many different ways.
- Thank God that our lives are held in Christ, and that our worth and purpose come from God.
- Pray for those who feel worn, overlooked, less visible or uncertain of their place, that they would know they are valued and have a place and purpose.
- Ask God to help us see people as Christ sees them, looking beyond outward appearances and recognising the life and gifts within each person.
- Ask that God will give us a deeper focus and that we'll be open to our perception being changed.

Let's Pray

This week, spend some time each day looking at the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod website. Read the latest stories and news, and behold the breadth and depth of who we are as a church. As you read and reflect, pray for the people, agencies, churches, schools and activities you encounter.

God of life and renewal,
thank you for the many people and communities
who make up your church.

Help us to see the breadth of your work
among us,
to value the different gifts we bring,
and to recognise where you are bringing new
life.

Bless those we have read about today.
Strengthen those who are weary,
encourage those who are serving,
and guide us all to follow where you are
leading.

Help us to set our minds on Christ,
and to become a church where all can
belong,
grow and flourish.

Amen.

Family Activity

- Look up the word 'behold' in a dictionary.
- This week, spend some time out in nature, sitting quietly and observing. Behold the wonder and the delight.
- What do you notice? What might God be saying to you as you sit and behold?
- You might like to draw what you saw or write down what you noticed and reflected on.

Reflecting in Prayer

WEEK
THREE

Haggai 1

Rev. Emma Nicholls currently serving at the Community Life Uniting Church

"Consider your ways."

There are seasons when you can be working incredibly hard, and yet still wonder what you have to show for it.

I know that feeling. After the first three years in my congregation, I had come a long way from being bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. The learning curve of leadership was steep, and the responsibilities seemed endless. I was working harder than I ever had, and yet was beginning to feel hamstrung by the demands of simply keeping things going.

Then, over lunch one day, a colleague asked me a question I wasn't expecting: 'How many people have become new Christians at your church, in the last three years?'

I knew the answer immediately – zero. It was an uncomfortable answer. Not because of a lack of effort – I knew I had been doing a lot and doing it well. We were growing in many other ways. But the question stuck in my heart like a burr. Somewhere along the way, I knew as a leader, I had become more focused on keeping things going, than imagining new ways to engage people with faith.

The prophet Haggai similarly invites honest reflection of the people who had returned to Jerusalem after the exile. Their temple had been destroyed, and although they had initially tried to rebuild, opposition from neighbouring people shook their confidence, and they felt discouraged and afraid (see Ezra 4). So, they turned their attention to other projects: their homes, farms and livelihoods.

Haggai essentially asks them, 'How's this all going for you?'

The answer is, 'Not very well.' Despite all their hard work, there is little to show for it. Their crops yield little, their harvest is pitiful, and nothing seems to satisfy them anymore. They are just spinning their wheels.

Haggai points to the temple lying in ruins, and asks, 'Why aren't you working on God's house?' The people say, 'The time is not right yet.' It's an understandable response. For this community, so much had changed. Perhaps the energy it would take to rebuild not only the physical temple, but their deep sense of collective identity -- in the midst of opposition -- was too much to bear.

It's a feeling we can relate to. When we are discouraged and tired, it's often easier to put our energy into what feels safe and practical.

But Haggai sees more for God's people. He proclaims God's encouragement - *'I am with you, says the Lord.'* (1:13) God stirs up their spirits. And the people pick up the tools and start building the house of God, again. As I reflect on the ways I have seen God bringing new growth in our congregation in the past year, it fills me with hope. God is still stirring his people. There are still new possibilities before us.

But we must not miss this opportunity to reflect. Haggai's question invites us into honest prayer before God. We sit with the question – how are things really going? What have we become so busy maintaining, that we have stopped looking to the new things God is doing amongst us?

As we do, we may allow God to search our hearts, and to reveal where we have drifted from God's purposes. And we may hear the promise afresh: *'I am with you, says the Lord.'*

Reflective Questions

- How are things really going?
- What might God be calling you/our church to reorder, release or rebuild?
- Where do you feel or see God's stirring, and what new possibilities might God be inviting you/our church to join in?

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for the promise, "I am with you," especially in seasons of weariness and discouragement.
- Thank God for the people, gifts and ministries that help build up the life of our church.
- Thank God for the Uniting Church people who have taught us, mentored us, encouraged us, and led us throughout the years.
- Ask God for forgiveness for the times when our actions have caused hurt, pain and confusion, and have pushed people away from God and our church.
- Ask that God will reveal the areas where we have drifted away from God's purpose and the changes that may be required for realignment.
- Ask God to stir our hearts and to renew our vision for what is possible.

Prayer of Reflection

Clench your fists.

Think about the hard things in your life, and our church. What are you carrying, avoiding or finding difficult?

Prayer

God, help us to be honest about the things that are hard. Give us courage to face them and release them into your hands.

Roll your hands.

Think about all the things keeping you busy? What are you maintaining or doing that might stop you noticing what God is doing?

Prayer

God, help us not to become so busy keeping things going that we miss your new possibilities. Renew our vision and stir our spirits.

Rest and breathe deeply

Take a slow breath in and out. Remember God's promise: "I am with you."

Prayer

God, thank you that you are with us. Give us hope, courage and imagination to join in what you are building among us. Amen.

Family Activity

Together, build a house using blocks or Lego. As you build, talk about the things that keep your family busy and what you spend your time maintaining. Then reflect on where God might be stirring your family to build or try something new: in your family, neighbourhood, community or church.

Pray together: "God, show us what you are doing, and help us join in. Amen."

Renewing in Prayer

WEEK
FOUR

Romans 12

Rev. Catherine Solomon is currently serving in the South Moreton Presbytery as Presbytery Minister

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

Several years ago, I found myself carrying a heavy burden about a difficult church situation. I spent hours thinking about it, replaying conversations in my head, imagining every possible outcome and consequence, and worrying about what might happen next. Although I was praying intently, I realised that much of my "prayer" was simply presenting the problem to God and then continuing to carry it myself.

One morning during my devotional time, I felt prompted to stop asking God to change the situation and instead ask for my own transformation. As I sat quietly, a question emerged: *What if God is more interested in shaping my heart than solving this problem?*

Nothing about the situation changed immediately. The people involved were still the same. The challenges remained. Yet over the following weeks, something in me shifted. Prayer softened my anxiety. It challenged my assumptions. It exposed my fears I had not recognised. It helped me see others with greater compassion and trust more deeply in God's presence amid uncertainty. This meant I was able to surrender to God's mercy and leading, bringing me to peace, hope and joy.

Prayer is not simply giving me strength to endure, but it is a gift for where the Holy Spirit renews minds so that we as the church can love and serve more faithfully. Through prayer, the Spirit transforms how we think, how we see God, ourselves and others, and how we discern what is life-giving and what is not.

In recent years, I have been reminded how easily fear can influence our decisions, how a sense of entitlement can crowd out humility, and self-assurance and arrogance can be overshadowed by vulnerability and honesty. Yet Paul's words in Romans 12 invite us into a different way of living and leading.

As we surrender ourselves to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, our minds and hearts are transformed. We become people who serve with humility, lead with courage, and remain open to God's guidance. In that posture, we recognise that true leadership begins with kneeling before the God who knows, loves, and accompanies us every step of the way.

This week, perhaps the most important prayer is not, *"God, fix this situation,"* but *"God, renew me."*

Reflective Questions

How is my prayer life about asking for solving problems rather than renewing my mind and heart?

What assumptions am I carrying that need to be challenged?

How are my fears shaping my decisions?
How might my decisions change if I held no fear?

Where might I be invited to trust more deeply in God's wisdom and grace?

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for God's wisdom and grace.
- 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, schools, and prisons.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the fears, assumptions and habits that may be shaping our decisions.
- Ask that the councils, boards, and treasurers in congregations, presbyteries, agencies, and Synod will trust God as they discern God's will so that we can continue to bring goodness, hope, wisdom and grace to the world.
- Ask that the God will continue to renew our minds and transform our hearts.

Let's Pray

Loving Creator Spirit, renew our minds and transform our hearts.

As we consider this week - the relationships I have and in the ministries in which I participate...

Where has fear taken hold?

Come Holy Spirit and breathe humility and courage.

What are the assumptions I have made about situations or other people which are limiting?

Come Holy Spirit and open my eyes wider than my narrow perspective to see the living Christ present and active.

What are my habits that keep me stuck?

Come Holy Spirit and lead me into new possibilities and fresh ways of seeing your kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven.

In the stillness of prayer, we pray for your church.

Reshape our thinking, open our eyes to see our blind spots, deepen our discernment, awaken us to your presence and help us trust you with everything.

May we be transformed by your love, so that we may discern what is your will and become people who reflect your goodness, hope, wisdom and grace in the world.

Come Holy Spirit and renew your church.

Amen.

Family Activity

Fill up a backpack with heavy things and wear it around the house for a few minutes. Then take it off and notice the feeling of freedom and relief.

Talk together about the things we carry: What worries or fears do you have? What feels too big to change?

Spend some time in prayer, giving these things to God.

Ask God to replace your worries and fears with peace and trust and help you remain open to new possibilities.

Responding in Prayer

Hebrews 3-4

Vicki Macpherson is currently serving as a Lay Preacher in the Moreton Rivers Presbytery.

WEEK
FIVE

Leadership coach and author Pastor John Maxwell says: "COURAGE isn't an absence of fear. It is doing what you are afraid to do, letting go of the familiar and forging ahead into new territory."¹ In other words, do the 'thing' and get courage, don't wait to get courage then do the thing!

I had procrastinated for too long. Entering a new ministry that others felt I was suited to, relied on my willingness to be open to and accepting of God's perfect will.

Throughout my study, deep listening in prayer and the counsel of others a repeated message emerged. God was inviting me into the ministry of Lay Preaching. My heart was open to the idea, but in my spirit, there was a shift taking place that was feeling uncomfortable.

The authors of Hebrews describe a time when God's people hardened their hearts against him and didn't trust or obey his call on their life. In response to their rebellion God withdrew the opportunity for rest and left them in the wilderness for forty years before they found rest in the promise land.

I certainly didn't want that to be my story. Maybe it was my ex-Military background, but the whisper of the Holy Spirit was beginning to feel like a clarion call that offered a limited window of time to respond.

It was becoming clear I would need to leave the comfort of my beloved home church of 25 years and find rest in a new congregation to prepare for lay preaching. It was a heart-breaking experience, but one that eventually came with a sense of peace and knowing that it was right. That's the thing about remaining open to new possibilities, trusting in a new and unfamiliar direction.

We do not discover what trust feels like until we step forward in faith. Action comes first; courage follows. "Come boldly" God says, "and there you will receive mercy and find grace to help when you need it most (Heb 4:16)."

¹ Maxwell John, *The 21 Irrefutable laws of leadership*, USA, Thomas Nelson publishers, 1999.

Reflective Questions

When have you heard God's call to action? What did it sound like - a whisper, a clarion call, or something else? How did you recognise it as God's invitation?

Are there areas of your life, or within our church, where our hearts may have become hardened to God's calling and leading?

How might God be inviting you, and our church, to respond in prayer and action today?

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for God's faithfulness, especially during the times when we've wandered, hesitated, or allowed our hearts to become hard.
- Thank God for the assurance that we can approach God boldly in our time of need.
- Thank God for many opportunities God gives us to serve and grow.
- Pray that God will soften our hearts, as individuals and as a church community, so that we listen and respond to God's voice.
- Pray that God will give us the courage to respond when God calls us beyond the familiar.
- Pray that God will strengthen those who are stepping into new ministries, new callings or unfamiliar and challenging seasons.

Let's Pray

Let the busyness of the day settle. Let the noise within grow quieter.

And as you become still, imagine yourself standing in a place of wilderness.

Perhaps it is a place you know well. Perhaps it is unfamiliar.

What does the wilderness look like? What does it feel like?

Bring to mind the questions, fears and difficulties you've been carrying as you've journeyed through the wilderness.

God is with you - not distant. Not impatient. Simply present.

What might God be saying to you in the wilderness?

Now imagine picking up a heavy stone. Hold it in your hand.

What might the stone represent in your life?

Maybe a hard heart - heavy, unmoving, cold?

Maybe fear? Or disappointment? Or uncertainty?

Hold it for a moment.

Know that God is with you - not distant. Not impatient. Simply present.

When you are ready, imagine placing the stone down.

As you place it down, what do you notice or feel?

Now look out from the wilderness towards the path ahead.

As you look out, know that God is with you - not distant. Not impatient. Simply present.

As you look ahead, where do you think the path is leading?

What might be the next step God may be inviting you to take?

Now imagine our church standing together on this path.

Some people are ready to move. Some are uncertain. Some are looking back.

But God is among us, calling us forward.

Where might God be inviting our church to go?

How might God be inviting us to respond?

God of mercy and grace,
soften our hearts,
open our ears,
and give us courage to respond to your leading and take the next step.

Amen.

Family Activity

Trace your feet on paper and then cut them out. Do this several times so that you can make a 'feet' footpath.

Write a short prayer on each foot, asking God to help you as you follow God. They may be prayers like:

*God, help me to hear you.
God, help me to trust you.
God, help me to be brave.
God, help me to follow you.*

Responding in Prayer

WEEK
SIX

Revelation 21:1-5

Zoe Korbe is a young adult of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress worshipping at Zillmere, Zoe has a passion for lifting up youth and young adults within the church.

Prayer invites us to see differently. It calls us to slow down, to listen deeply, and to become attentive to the presence of God within creation, within our communities and within the stories of our lives. Revelation 21:1-5 gives us a powerful vision of renewal: "a new heaven and a new earth," where God dwells among God's people and where suffering, death, mourning and pain will be no more.

The invitation to "see" is significant. Renewal is not only something we pray for in the future; it is something we are invited to perceive with our whole heart and mind, in the present. Prayer changes the way we look at the world. It teaches us to notice where healing is taking place, where relationships are being restored, where creation is cared for, and where hope is emerging.

This vision of renewal can speak meaningfully alongside a deep connection to our expansive Australian landscape; not simply as land or a place, but as a living relationship, celebrating different cultures, communities, stories, spirituality and responsibility. Country is something to which people belong, rather than simply something that belongs to people.

This invites us to consider what it means to perceive God's creation through prayer. Perhaps prayer can teach us to see Country not merely as a resource to use, but as a gift to receive and a relationship to honour. It can open our eyes to the sacredness of creation and to our responsibility to care for the places, people and communities entrusted to us.

Revelation's promise that God is "making all things new" is not simply about escaping this

world. It is a vision of restoration, a world where relationships are healed, where creation is renewed, and where God dwells among humanity. Renewal, through these passages can therefore begin to shape how we live now. So that we are not overcome by fear and suffering, but embrace the many blessings that are ours through the written and whispered Word.

In prayer, we might ask: What needs to be renewed in me? What relationships need healing? How might I care more faithfully for Country and for my neighbour? What is God inviting me to notice that I have previously overlooked? For all of us, prayer can become an act of acknowledgement, as well as an act listening to God and to the presence of the Holy Spirit in creation, through one another, and through the wisdom of those whose experiences and perspectives may challenge and enrich our own. May we pray with open eyes and attentive hearts, trusting the God who declares, "I am making all things new."

Reflective Questions

Where do you see signs that God is making all things new. What might God be inviting you/our church to nurture and encourage?

What might prayer help you notice that you have previously overlooked?

How do you see and relate to Country? As a 'resource to use', a 'gift to receive', 'a relationship to honour' or something else? How might your answer impact the way you live, care for creation, and relate to your community?

Once completed, lay all the feet on the floor. Then, as you gently step along the 'feet' path, pray each of the prayers.

Things to pray for:

- Thank God for the rich and diverse gift of creation, and for the beauty and abundance of Country.
- Thank God for the people, places and communities through which we experience God's presence and love.
- Thank God for God's vision of restoration and renewal for the whole world.
- Ask God for the gift of holy perception - to notice where healing is taking place, relationships are being restored, creation is being cared for, and hope is emerging.
- Ask God to give us hearts, hands and voices ready to help bring healing, care and hope to those around us.
- Ask God to guide the Uniting Church in caring for and supporting people who are disillusioned, grieving or experiencing pain.

Let's Pray

Reflect on the words "See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

You might like to close your eyes to notice what images and thoughts come to mind. Or say the words out loud. What might God be inviting you to see?

God of creation and new life,
help us to slow down, listen and see.

Help us notice where you are making things new, where healing is happening, where relationships are being restored, where creation is being cared for, and where hope is growing.

Holy Spirit,

Open our hearts and guide our actions.
Show us what needs to be made new in us and in our Church.

Help us to nurture new life,
Help us to encourage hope,

And help us to care for our neighbours and for Country.

May we trust your promise: "I am making all things new."
Amen.

Family Activity

- Look up the word 'perceive' in a dictionary. What does it mean to notice or see something differently?
- Listen to '[One World](#)' by Songs for School.
- Chat together: Where do you see God making things new in our world? How can you be a 'bringer of hope'?
- Make a poster with pictures and words showing where God is at work and how you can help care for people, creation and Country.