

Responsive Prayer (for our community, our world)

One: Before judging ... *All:* ... pause.
One: Before assuming ... *All:* ... pause.
One: Before accusing ... *All:* ... pause.
One: Whenever you're about to react harshly ... *All:* ... pause.
One: ... and you'll avoid doing things
... and you'll avoid saying things
that you'll later regret. *All:* Amen!

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/8067737-practice-the-pause-pause-before-judging-pause-before-assuming-pause> - downloaded 13.45, 08.01.2024

We sing **God is within** George Stuart
(used with permission) Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos TiS 168

1. From beginning to each ending God is within. Human and divine keep blending; God is within. In our coming and our going, In our learning and our knowing, As we struggle in our growing. God is within.	3. God and Jesus are in union; God is within. We are also in communion; God is within. We can now find perfect rhythm, We are cherished, we are welcome. In this unity is freedom; God is within.
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2. When we cease from being greedy God is within. When we look to serve the needy God is within. When we use our wealth for sharing When we stand with those despairing When we live our lives in caring God is within.	4. When we act with human virtue God is within. Strive for live ideals we value God is within. When we guard and guide each other With compassion, we uncover Our true selves and we discover God is within.
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Notices

Benediction

May the love that gives to life its beauty,
the reverence that gives to life its sacredness,
and the purposes that give to life its deep significance
be strong within each of us and lead us into ever deepening
relationships with all of life in this New Year and always. Amen.

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/5987.shtml> - downloaded 13.24, 08.01.2024

Progressive Christianity Service
17th January, 2024

Hope



https://www.reddit.com/r/mildlyinteresting/comments/p7g011/sunflower_growing_in_sidewalk_crack/ - downloaded 17.05 07.01.2023

Order of worship

Welcome

Acknowledgement of country

Many have gone before who have honoured God by caring for this land, in the ways they have lived and the stories they have shared. We give thanks for the Kaurna people, who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land, and living in harmony with it.

Acknowledgement of diversity

We recognise our diversity and, acknowledging the Uniting Church's Safe Church Policy, we accept that this is a safe place in which all people can worship together, irrespective of race, creed, age, ability, sexuality, cultural background, or any other distinguishing feature.

We light the candle - John 1 : 5 (NIV)

The light shines in the darkness, & the darkness has not overcome it.

Call to worship

Hope nonetheless. Hope despite. Hope regardless. Hope still.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope that draws us past our limits. Hope that defies expectations.
Hope that questions what we have known.
Hope that makes a way where there is none.
Hope that calls us into life.
Let us worship the God of Hope!

based on Jan Richardson's

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58b87dde6b8f5b9eea29e24a/t/604a65027063e52aaba08d87/1615488258719/03+March+14+2021+PPT+in+PDF+.pdf> - downloaded 18.16, 07.01.2024

Introduction to topic: Hope

Desmond Tutu is quoted as having said:

“Hope is being able to see that there is light,
despite all of the darkness.”

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/desmond_tutu_454129 downloaded 13.00, 09.01.2024

We sing **As we come together** Tune: Caswall TiS 344
George Stuart (used with permission)

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| 1. As we come together
Come just as we are.
With our diff'rent feelings;
Near and from afar. | 4. As we come together,
Some to understand
Challenges from Jesus;
And what they demand. |
| 2. As we come together,
Some may come to pray;
Seeking for direction
How to live each day. | 5. As we come together,
Some may come to pause;
Stressed or in depression;
Looking for the cause. |
| 3. As we come together,
Some to meet with friends.
Talking, list'ning, sharing;
On these love depends. | 6. As we come together
At this time and place,
May we see God's presence
In each other's face. |

Prayer God, thank you for being with us now. We confess that we don't understand why some things happen. Why suffering comes into our lives. But we know that you walk every path with us. Remind us when you are walking with those who are suffering. Allow us to ask, and yet be unable to answer, the “whys.” Strengthen us to trust in love - even when we don't have the answers. Give us hope. Amen.

downloaded 17.35, 29.04.2022 - <https://www.crossroadshospice.com/hospice-palliative-care-blog/2017/may/04/>
based on a prayer by Barry Pennington, Chaplain, Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care, Kansas City

Bible reading - Romans 15 : 1-7 (NIV)

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.

Presentation - by Kees Vermey and Wendy Young