

Writing Prayers Workshop, 11th July 2019, Brunswick Uniting Church

These prayers were written during the workshop in response to a shared reading of Luke 10:25-37. Ian Ferguson wove them through the liturgy for worship on Sunday 14th July with each person standing to read the prayer they had written from where they were sitting in the congregation.

□ □ Peter McKinnon

God of Compassion, Moving Spirit,
You, who call us to move beyond words,
And to live out grace;
Tender healer,
Beloved companion,
Breathe upon the restless waters of our days
And calm us all.

□ □ Amelia Ware

Merciful God, river of life,
you carry us and sustain us without end.

Our understanding of all the ways
we are connected to the world of your creation
is bound only by the limits of our own perception.

Forgive us when we live only for the present,
unconcerned for the future
and denying the knowledge
of the indigenous people of this land,
built up over thousands of years.

Encourage us to recognise and grasp
the power we have to influence the future
and give us an enduring sense of the great privilege it is
to learn from those who have a deep knowledge of this land.

□ □ Saide Cameron

Holy God, with your breath you create all things
You are the source of all love and grace
You breathe life and peace into us, calling us
To be your people in the world.

Jesus, you stir our hearts with stories
Shaping our lives with words of compassion
Calling us out of our safe places
To be your people in the world.

Holy Spirit, breath of compassion
You fill our hearts with abundant joy
Renewing us when we are weary
To be your people in the world.

☐☐ Dan Broadstock

God of love, Flame of love,
Spirit and Soul of love.

Lover from the beginning, and Lover until the end.
Lover of quiet things and broken things.
Lover of small things and of brave things.
Lover of hidden things and precious things.

Root and branch of love, and flower of peace.
Your reign is only love, and in love your Law is fulfilled.

In the end, when we have loved, it is you we have known.

For before and above all things that are or were or ever shall be, you are Love.

☐☐ Steph Gesling

God of challenging stories
move us with compassion
to hear this story. Amen

☐☐ Kirsty Bennett

Friend, Stranger, Neighbour
Compassionate, courageous, proactive
Waiting, stopping, helping
Go, do, repeat

☐☐ Ray Cameron

The struggle of our ego, we see things in the world
they stir within us feelings that make us uncomfortable
We are prompted to take some form of action
And yet we don't do as we should
We think about ourselves and what it means for us
What will people think, or say, what will it cost me
You have put your love within us and yet we hold onto it
We don't share the love around

Give us the compassion, and the courage
To step out in your love,
To do the things that we know are right to do
Your love is unconditional, help us to be unconditional in who we share it with

There are so many ways that we can differentiate ourselves from others
Challenge us to look for what is common ... in that we will find you

□ □ Jamie Thom

Eternal God

Help each of us to show compassion.

Inspire our congregation in assisting asylum seekers and those on the edge of society.

Move our politicians to show generosity to those in need. Amen

□ □ Jenne Perlstein

In response to the Lawyer, Jesus and the Samaritan

Loving Divine

You honour the searcher

The human in us who struggles,

Asks the questions, wants the right answer.

In answer, You pierce to our deepest places.

Pause

Do we feel your Truth in our core?

Do we love you? Know you?

Allow You to reach into our soul?

Pause

Or do we walk past? Missing you in the disquieting stranger?

□ □ Leanne Salau

Loving and compassionate God challenging us

to share a smile with a stranger,

to share a cuppa or a meal with a homeless person or refugee,

to share a conversation with someone

whose appearance or behaviour may challenge us.

Give us courage so that through our actions,

your grace may be shared with others in our community.

Amen

□ □ Kate Scull

Our God among us,

teach us to see clearly

And not turn aside

But face our neighbour's pain

Reach out to soothe their bruises

with the courage born of your grace.

Our God who binds us together

Teach us to hear truly

and not cover our ears

But listen to our neighbour's cries

Sit by them in their lament

with the compassion flowing from your love.

Amen

☐☐ Natalie Sims

Attentive God, as we go,
may our eyes be open to see those who suffer.

Compassionate Christ, as we go,
may we be moved to stop and reach out rather than walking by.

Generous Spirit, as we go,
may we give without limits, until our broken world is healed and restored.

☐☐ Ian Ferguson

Compassionate Christ,
you walk with us on the road;
You call to our hearts from beside the way.
Your mercy bandages the wounds of the world.
You carry the broken with your brokenness.
You give us the shelter of your love,
for in you, the love of neighbour knows no boundaries.
Help us to do likewise.