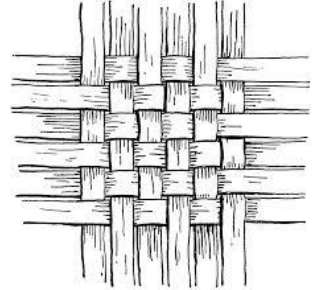


**Worship for Conference 2016**  
**Sunday 2 October 2016, 9.30am**

**Threads in the Weaving**

**Greeting and Opening**

Peace be with you  
**And also with you.**



Here we meet for another Conference,  
weaving together the fabric of our life,  
**in all its different colours and textures,**  
**in all its changing form and flow.**

Here we mark the things that have gone before,  
**and hope for the newness to come.**

Here we celebrate each one as a thread in the weaving,  
**here we cherish the moments**  
**when the fabric of our life becomes whole.**

**Hymn - God of the Bible vs 1,2**

**God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.**

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change. (repeat)***

**God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.**

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change. (repeat)***

## Prayer of openness

Let us not pretend that, as we see our life as a weaving,  
there are no tears, mends, holes and knotted places:  
silent hurts and angers which make sad gaps  
in our relationships;

*short silence*

threads of lives moving in opposition to each other,  
or pulled so tightly that they nearly break,  
thin patches and frayed edges of tiredness,  
disappointments or failed expectations  
that fade the fabric and discolour its beauty.

*short silence*

We are very human, O God.

**Give to us your grace,  
give to us your loving forgiveness. Amen**

## Assurance

God is present in grace among us,  
woven within our lives,  
like a strong golden thread of transforming possibilities.  
We are forgiven!

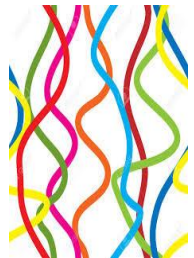
**Thanks be to God.**

## Scripture Reading – Acts 2:43-47

## Celebration

We celebrate each thread  
that makes up the pattern of our life together.  
We think of the threads brought by each of us.

*(people share with their neighbour the name of the group of the church  
they represent – eg parish, lay preachers, mission, etc)*



Let us think of other threads which contribute to our life  
because they are our visitors, friends  
or others whose work supports or runs alongside us.  
*(people share with their neighbour the name of those they know  
who support them and/or those they feel they know less well).*

Here is beauty, here is variety,  
many things can be created from this fabric.

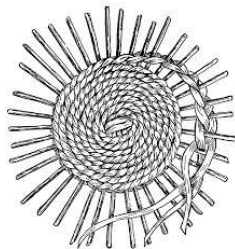
**Right side: We are a cloth of diverse colours,  
made from many gifts and graces.**

***Left side: We are the people flowing forth from the Creator  
surprising ourselves with the things that can be done.***

**Right side: We are raw material  
for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave,  
contributing one to the other,  
holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.**

***Left side: We are each worthy of being respected and cared for,  
essential to the pattern,  
skilled in our appointed tasks,  
vehicles for unexpected wisdom and skills,  
sources of laughter and sharers of tears,  
working with each other that, one day,  
this world may be a place  
where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.***

**All: This is our hope, this is our faith,  
Christ Jesus will be our company  
and the Spirit gives life to the weaving.**



## **Prayers for others and ourselves**

*we pray for others in a time of silence*

We dedicate our work to you.

**Go with us into this Conference, O God.**

**Take all that we offer and add to that your gifts.**

**Breathe into our work your energy, truth and courage,**

**that we may be a faithful, humble people**

**who are truly gracious to each other**

**and truly committed to the vision of life**

**with which you call us on. Amen**

### **Hymn - God of the Bible vs 4,5**

**Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.**

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,***

***God always faithful, you do not change. (repeat)***

**Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly, one to the other,  
till our world changes, facing the Cross.**

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,***

***God always faithful, you do not change. (repeat)***

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### **Sending Out**

Remember your calling and go into this Conference in peace.

**We go in faith.**

May the loving kindness of God be found among us,

the humanness of Christ make gentle our paths

and the Spirit sing songs of hope in our hearts.

**Amen**

© Liturgy adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon