



St Ives Uniting Church

5th December 2021

Advent 2

Welcome and lighting the Advent Candles

Merciful God,

As the kings and rulers of our world are enthroned, we have witnessed the elaborate preparations made for those events. By the power of your Spirit, move us to make the preparations needed to welcome your son, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Soften our hearts, break down our resistance. Open us anew to your life and love that we may be transformed and may be agents of transformation in the lives of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn: 59 All people that on earth do dwell

Prayers of adoration and confession

Assurance of forgiveness

So hear Christ's word of grace, "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Video: Rejoice (Emu music)

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Shirley Luttrell

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;

never again will you fear any harm.
¹⁶ On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
¹⁸ “I will remove from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.
¹⁹ At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue the lame;
I will gather the exiles.
I will give them praise and honour
in every land where they have suffered shame.
²⁰ At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,”
says the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Luke 3:1-6

Emily Jacobsson

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,

the rough ways smooth.
6 And all people will see God's salvation.'"
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Joy to the world?

Hymn: 216 Rejoice the Lord is king

Offering and prayer

Prayer for others

Ross Lorenz

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so we praise you with your people throughout the world and across the years, joining with choirs of angels and the whole of creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...With this bread and this cup we do as our Saviour commands: we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

...Awaiting his coming in glory, we pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ, and Christ in us.

...God has us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people, and so we pray together:

We thank you, Lord, that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son. He lived and died and rose again, declared your love and gave us the gift of eternal life.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we who the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us in the hope we have in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Hymn: 265 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Benediction

Postlude

Organist

Jim Abraham