



## **St Ives Uniting Church**

**Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Pentecost 16**

### ***“A Question to Answer”***

**Notices and Welcome**

**Introduction and Call to Worship**

**We Light the Christ Candle**

**Prayer of Invocation**

### **Gathering to Praise God**

**Hymn 224**      All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WVSyGBBfi8>

### **Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving**

Almighty God we now come to our prayers of confession and thanksgiving. So often Father, we fall short in the ways you would want us to live. Too often we have been selfish, or short-sighted – preoccupied with our own agendas; often we have been too busy to see the needs of people right in

front of us. Sometimes Father we have been proud and feeling superior rather than serving in humility. Sometimes Father we have taken the easy way out, sometimes compromising when we should have stood firm to our principles.

Father we confess that we have not always honoured you in what we have said and done. Often our eyes have been blind to the daily miracles that occur in our lives and all around us in this wonderful world. Often we forget to give thanks for your sustenance, care and guidance. Like Thomas, sometimes we have been wracked with doubt, and have dismissed things we don't fully understand. Rather than proceeding in faith even though we don't understand, we have proclaimed that such things cannot happen and have left no room for your wonder and awe-inspiring miraculous power. Father, we thank you for the life, teachings and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you Father that he was so close to you so that we can see what a life close to you can really mean in terms of its richness, fullness and power. Because Jesus Christ lived and died, so too can we come close to you and truly live. Father, please give us resolve to be more like our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ who has shown us your love and forgiveness in real and tangible and human terms.

Father, we ask now for forgiveness. And we give you thanks that you have opened your arms to us in spite of our failings. We thank you for your unconditional forgiveness and acceptance, so that we can hold our heads up high and our spirits can be uplifted.

And we ask these things in and through the name of this same Lord, Jesus the Christ, **Amen.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

*God is love. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

## **Listening to God's Word.**

### **Responsive Reading** Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

**4 Yet their voice<sup>[b]</sup> goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course

**6 It rises at one end of the heaven and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

**8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

**10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

**14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen**

## Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all:  
**And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of the Peace with those near us.*

**First Lesson** James Chapter 3 Verses 1 – 12

Lara Pillai

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

<sup>3</sup>When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup>The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup>All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 658** I the Lord of Sea and Sky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXOkht8w7c>

## **Second Lesson** Mark Chapter 8 Verses 27 – 38

Lara Pillai

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

### **The Way of the Cross**

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>l</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

***Lord Jesus Christ we give you our praise.***

**Sermon**

“A Question to Answer”

Lawrence Peak

**Poem**

“Who do you say that I am?”

Some have said I am a seer  
Some an imposter – a sham,  
Some a madman to jeer  
But who do you say that I am?

Some say that I am a prophet,  
Some just don't give a damn,  
I've been called quite a few things – and yet  
Who do you say that I am?

There are many who don't give me a thought,  
Some who think me quite quaint,  
Some follow the lessons I've taught,  
And others think me a true saint.

There are some who fall on their knees  
And cry “Worthy is the Lamb”  
Others just do as they please,  
But who do you say that I am?

So is there room for me in your days?  
Am I part of your busy program?  
Am I part of your reverent praise?  
Who do you say that I am?

Do you mock or ignore or deride?  
To worship me as God's Son?  
Have you come to the point to decide?  
No-one else – you are the one!

Lawrence Peak

**Responding to God's Word.**

**Hymn 589** Jesus calls us o'er the tumult

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBqzjCjD9wo>

## Offering

## Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him above, ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

## Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People                      Richie Dulin

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day 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.

**Closing Hymn 526** Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wZoZM6LEeE>

## Benediction

**Blessing 779**                      May the feet of God walk with you                      *"Aubrey"*

May the feet of God walk with you  
And his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you  
And his ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you,  
And his breath give you life.  
May the child of God grow in you  
And his love bring you home.

# Postlude

