



St Ives Uniting Church

25th December 2023

Christmas Day

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 304 O come, all ye faithful (verses 1,5,6,7)

Opening prayers

Assurance of forgiveness

God sent the Son into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Those who believe in him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 318 Away in a manger

Bible readings:

Luke 2:1-14

Babara Coupe

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave

birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hebrews 1:1-4

Marian Kingham

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: God's message

Hymn: 313 Good Christians all, rejoice

Prayers for the world and all people

The Lord's prayer

Blessing

Hymn: 268 Joy to the world

Postlude

Pianist

Lawrence Peak





