



St Ives Uniting Church

16 July 2023

Pentecost 7

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 125 God of Abraham praise (Verses 1,3,4,5,6)

Prayer of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 65:1-13

¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² **You who answer prayer,
to you all people will come.**

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!

**We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.**

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Savior,

**the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,**

⁶ who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,

⁷ **who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.**

⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
**where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

⁹ You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,

for so you have ordained it.

¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

Amen

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's work of grace to us, "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 745 Seek ye first

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Genesis 25: 19-35

Stephen White

¹⁹ This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ The Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,

and two peoples from within you will be separated;

one people will be stronger than the other,

and the older will serve the younger."

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Romans 8:5-11

Elizabeth White

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead

will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The value of things

Hymn: 465 Father in heaven, grant to your children

Offering

**We offer these gifts, Lord,
for the work of your Church
and the welfare of your people;
acknowledging with gratitude that we could give nothing
if you had not first given to us.
The money we have not brought today
is also a trust from you.
Help us to use all we have
In accordance with your good will
and for the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of the people

Guy Smith

Hymn: 547 Be thou my vision

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Pianist

Deb Marshall