



St Ives Uniting Church

8 September 2024

Pentecost 16

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 454 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Prayer of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

² I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ **When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ **the Lord gives sight to the blind,**

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Hear then the word of grace and the assurance of pardon:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 129 Amazing grace

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Beth Facer

A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

² Rich and poor have this in common:
The Lord is the Maker of them all.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity,
and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

⁹ The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.

²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,

²³ for the Lord will take up their case
and will exact life for life.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

James 2:1-17

Richard Facer

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their

physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Partiality and preference.

Hymn: 629 When I needed a neighbour

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Shirley Ashton

Hymn: 52 Let us sing to the God of salvation

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

John Hughes