



St Ives Uniting Church

5 January 2025

Christmas 2

Welcome and call to worship

God alone is our hope,

Our refuge and shelter.

We are called to share this Good News to our world,
declaring that God is our source of all hope.

We are called to act for peace and justice,
knowing that God makes all things possible.

We are called to love our neighbours
knowing that God's love never fails.

Hymn: 158 God has spoken by his prophets

Prayers of adoration and confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace, "Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Philip Southwell

⁷ This is what the Lord says:

"Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.
Make your praises heard, and say,
'Lord, save your people,

the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labour;
a great throng will return.

⁹ They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel’s father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

¹¹ For the Lord will deliver Jacob
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,
the young of the flocks and herds.
They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.

¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”
declares the Lord.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Ephesians 1:3-14

Emily Jacobsson

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in

Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: New year's resolution

Hymn: 134 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven

Offering

Offering response 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people

Ross Lorenz

Hymn: 511 Let us break bread together with the Lord

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, saying:

**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: 154 Great is thy faithfulness

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

John Hughes

