

St Ives Uniting Church

Order of service

6th March 2022

Welcome and lighting the Christ Candle

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:1,6,10-11)

Welcome to worship here at St Ives Uniting. We gather at a time of nation rising against nation, and a time of natural disaster in our own country. So, as we gather, we take heart at the Psalmist's assurance that God is our refuge and strength, and God is our ever-present help in trouble.

As we begin, let us light the Christ Candle.

The prophet Isaiah tells us:
The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:2,7)

Hymn: 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Prayers of adoration and confession

O God all-powerful, true and incomparable,
we stand before you in awe, bow down to you in worship.
you are present in all things, yet limited by none,
untouched by place, unaged by time,
unhurried by the years, undeceived by words,
not subject to birth nor in need of protection;
you are above all corruption,
you are beyond all change,
living in light that none can approach,
yet you make yourself known to us;
in the wonders of creation,
and uniquely through you Son
with their whole heart.

You are the God of Israel

You are the God of all who turn in hope to Christ.

Great and marvellous are your works, Lord God almighty;
just and true are your ways,

Therefore, with your whole church in heaven and on earth

we worship and adore you,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

to whom be glory now and forever.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you and against each other.

We have given in to temptation.

We have not been honest or fair or just.

We have been negligent.

But we turn to you, Lord,

We lay our burdens of sin at the foot of the Cross of Christ our saviour.

We trust in your promises to us, and we ask with all our hearts for your forgiveness.

Cleanse us, change us, lead us away from temptation.

In your mercy, write your law on our hearts,

and help us to walk in humbly your ways,

living with you and with each other,

to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ: God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life. It was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world, but that through him the world might be saved.

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

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 229 Jesus loves me

Notices - Lawrence

Bible readings:

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 - Lawrence

Luke 4:1-13 - Emily

Sermon: Temptation in the wilderness

Hymn: 745 Seek ye first

Offering and prayer

Prayer for others - Jo

Hymn: 233 I will sing the wondrous story

Benediction

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit; (Romans 15:13)

and may almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.