



St Ives Uniting Church

31 December 2023

Christmas 1

New Year's Eve

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 111 Praise to the Lord

Responsive prayer of adoration: Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord.

**Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.**

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,

⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ **lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,**

⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ **wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² **young men and women,
old men and children.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
**the praise of all his faithful servants,
the people close to his heart.**

Praise the Lord.

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 154 Great is your faithfulness

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Caroline Turner

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

³ You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 2:22-40

Beth Dulin

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The worst of times, the best of times

Hymn: 586 Abide with me

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Hymn: 129 Amazing grace (6 verses)

Blessing

Postlude

Organist

Jim Abraham