



St Ives Uniting Church

Sunday July 23rd 2023

**Pentecost 8
“Boundaries”**

Notices and Welcome

Introduction and Call to Worship

We Light the Christ Candle

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering to Praise God

Hymn 133 O Worship the King

Hanover

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

Declaration of Forgiveness

God is love. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Listening to God's Word.

Responsive Reading Psalm 139 Verses 1 – 18, 23 - 24

You have searched me, LORD and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts,^[a] God How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Amen

We share the peace amongst us

First Lesson

Heather Lakiss

Romans Chapter 8 Verses 12 - 25

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, “Abba,^[b] Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn 47 Our God, our help in ages past.

St Anne

Second Lesson Matthew Chapter 13 Verses 24 - 30, 36 – 43 Barbara Coupe

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Lord Jesus Christ we give you our praise.

Musical Interlude How Great Thou Art

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Sermon "Boundless God?" Lawrence Peak

Responding to God's Word.

Hymn "Boundless God"

(Tune - Be Thou my vision AHB 547)

God of creation, of both great and small
You reach out to us with love to embrace,
You have no limits, no limits at all!
Your love is quite boundless, and so is your grace.

Thank you for the beauty that we see everywhere
Pointing to you every time without fail,
Majesty, grandeur, it's almost a prayer!
From stars in the sky to the smallest detail.

We though, are mortal, all tending to stray
Even our best planning often falls short.
So many boundaries and limits each day
We need your guidance, we need your support.

We need your guidance to show how to live,
Making us strong each day as we believe
How to reach out in love, how to forgive,
And though we are limited, great things to achieve!

Father inspire us to grow, we implore.
Following Jesus to no matter where,
Stronger and higher than we were before!
Father now hear us for this is our prayer!

Lawrence Peak

Offering

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Barbara Coupe

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day 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.

Closing Hymn

143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise.

St Denio

Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you,
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen*

Blessing 778

Shalom to you now (sung twice)

"Somos del Senor"

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends,
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom

Postlude

Jim Abraham

