



St Ives Uniting Church

3 December 2023

Advent 1

Lighting the first Advent Candle

Response: 265 O come, O come Emmanuel (1st verse only)

Welcome

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

Prayers of adoration and confession

Responsive reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might;

come and save us.

³ Restore us, O God;

make your face shine on us,

that we may be saved.

⁴ How long, Lord God Almighty,

will your anger smoulder

against the prayers of your people?

⁵ **You have fed them with the bread of tears;**

you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours,

and our enemies mock us.

**⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

**¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

**¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.**

**¹⁹ Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

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.

Video - Christmas Bowl 2023

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Mark 13:24-37

Max Osborne

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress,
“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when

you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Marian Kingham

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Looking forward

Hymn: 28 God is our strength and refuge

Offering and prayer

Prayers of the people

Emily Jacobsson

Hymn: 511 Let us break bread together with the Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

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: 272 Come thou long expected Jesus

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Pianist

Lawrence Peak

