



St Ives Uniting Church

30 July 2023

Pentecost 9

Call to worship and welcome

The Christ Candle

Hymn: 111 Praise to the Lord

Prayer of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your statutes are wonderful;
therefore I obey them.

¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant,
longing for your commands.

¹³² **Turn to me and have mercy on me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Direct my footsteps according to your word;
let no sin rule over me.

¹³⁴ Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may obey your precepts.

¹³⁵ Make your face shine on your servant
and teach me your decrees.

¹³⁶ **Streams of tears flow from my eyes,
for your law is not obeyed.**

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ word of grace "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 599(ii) Take my life, and let it be

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings:

1 Kings 3:5-12

Elizabeth White

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶ Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷ "Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Stephen White

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The kingdom of God is like...

Hymn: 745 Seek ye first

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people

Hymn: 216 Rejoice the Lord is King

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Pianist

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