



# St Ives Uniting Church

19 November 2023

## Pentecost 25

### Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 59 All people that on earth do dwell

### Prayers of adoration and confession

### Assurance of forgiveness

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

**Thanks be to God**

Hymn: 106 Now thank we all our God

### Notices

Lawrence Peak

### Bible readings:

#### Matthew 25:14-30

Margaret Jeffery

<sup>14</sup> "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold

brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>22</sup> "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

<sup>23</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>24</sup> "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

<sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

<sup>28</sup> "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Philip Southwell

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety,"

destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon:** Children of the light

**Hymn:** 276 There's a light upon the mountains

**Offering and prayer**

**Loving God,**

**In hope, we bring our gifts,  
that we and they might be used,  
in ways beyond our understanding,  
to extend Christ's mission.**

**In humility, we bring our gifts,  
that we and they might be accepted,  
for reasons beyond our comprehension,  
as offerings of Christ's love.**

**In trust, we bring our gifts,  
that we and they might become  
joint offerings to one another in community,  
and, thereby, to you, our God.  
Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession and the Lord's Prayer**

Annette Burne

**Hymn: 209 And can it be**

**Benediction**

**Threefold Amen**

**Postlude**

**Organist**

Jim Abraham