



St Ives Uniting Church

22 October 2023

Pentecost 21

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 111 Praise to the Lord

Prayer of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 99

¹ The Lord reigns,

let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim,

let the earth shake.

² Great is the Lord in Zion;

he is exalted over all the nations.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—

he is holy.

⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—

you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done

what is just and right.

⁵ Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his footstool;

he is holy.

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the Lord

and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

⁸ Lord our God,
you answered them;
**you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.**

⁹ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the Lord our God is holy.

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace to us: "Your sins are forgiven"
Thanks be to God

Hymn: 106 Now thank we all our God

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

John Ruskin

"This is what the Lord says to his anointed,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their armour,
to open doors before him
so that gates will not be shut:

² I will go before you
and will level the mountains;
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.

³ I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the Lord,
the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

⁴ For the sake of Jacob my servant,
of Israel my chosen,
I summon you by name
and bestow on you a title of honour,
though you do not acknowledge me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.
I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,
⁶ so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the Lord, do all these things.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Matthew 22:15-22

Hazel Ruskin

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.
¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,”
they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the
way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others,
because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is
your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”
¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you
trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They
brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And
whose inscription?”
²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied.
Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to
God what is God’s.”

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Giving to God what is God's

Hymn: 228 Crown him with many crowns (5 verses)

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Hazel Ruskin

Hymn: 147 To God be the glory

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

John Hughes