



St Ives Uniting Church

23 February 2025

Epiphany 7

Call to worship (1 Chronicles 16:8-10,23-24)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord
rejoice.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after
day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

Welcome

Hymn: 59 All people that on earth do dwell

Prayer of adoration and confession

Assurance of forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading: Psalm 37

¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;

² **for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.**

³ Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:

**⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
**do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.**

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.

**⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.**

¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.

**¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.**

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The Lord helps them and delivers them;
**he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**

Hymn: Blessed assurance

Bible readings

Genesis 45:3-11

Margaret Jeffery

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?”
But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were
terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they
had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into
Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with
yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God
sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in
the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and
reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a
remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ^[a]

⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me
father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Luke 6:27-38

Shirley Ashton

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Love your enemies?

Hymn: 447 Let there be light

Offering

Offering response: 774 For the life that you have given (Tune: Austria)

Notices

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Father, hear our prayer

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Hymn: 210 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

Jeanette Steer