



St Ives Uniting Church

23 March 2025

Lent 3

Call to worship and welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: 183 Sing of the Lord's goodness

Prayer of adoration and confession

Psalm – Psalm 63

¹ You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;

I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

² **I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.**

³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.

⁴ **I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

⁶ **On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.**

⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ **I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

Assurance of forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 217(i) Love divine

Notices - Lawrence

Bible readings

Isaiah 55:1-9

Rob Mayrick

"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;

and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour."

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 13:1-9

Shirley Luttrell

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Where is God? Where are we?

Hymn: 586 Abide with me

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer Shirley Ashton

Hymn: 231 At the name of Jesus

Benediction

Sung response: The Aaronic Blessing

Postlude Pianist Lawrence Peak

