



# St Ives Uniting Church

**30 March 2025**

**Lent 4**

**Call to worship and welcome**

**Hymn: 215 You servants of God**

**Prayer of adoration and confession**

**Merciful God,  
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done,  
and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance;  
we have sinned in weakness;  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

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

**Hymn: 609 May the mind of Christ my saviour**

**Notices - Lawrence**

**Bible reading:**

**Luke 15:11b-24**

Shirley Ashton

<sup>11b</sup> "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Responsive reading** – from Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
**whose sins are covered.**

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
**and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
**and did not cover up my iniquity.**  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."  
**And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
**surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding place;  
**you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.**

<sup>10</sup> Many are the woes of the wicked,  
**but the Lord's unfailing love  
surrounds the one who trusts in him.**

<sup>11</sup> Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;  
**sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

**Bible reading:**

**Luke 15: 25-31**

Emily Jacobsson

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your

orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon:** The Father’s love.

**Hymn:** 160 Father all-loving

**Offering**

**Offering response:** 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**Prayers of the people and the Lord’s prayer**

**Hymn:** 155 O Lord my God (How great thou art)

**Benediction**

**Threefold amen**

**Postlude**

**Organist**

John Hughes

