



St Ives Uniting Church

4 May 2025

Easter 3

Call to worship and welcome

Hymn: 368 This is the Day (Tune: 10 Crimond)

Prayers of adoration and confession

Assurance of forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God.

The peace

The peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings:

Acts 9:1-20

Elizabeth White

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Revelation 5:11-14

Stephen White

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honour and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: The unlikely Christian

Hymn: 282 The voice of God goes out (Tune: 411 Woodlands)

Offering and prayer

Prayers of the people

Annette Burne

Hymn: 517 Hallelujah, sing to Jesus

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so we praise you with your people throughout the world and across the years, joining with choirs of angels and the whole of creation in the eternal hymn, singing:

Hymn: 761

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...With this bread and this cup we do as our Saviour commands: we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

...Awaiting his coming in glory, we pray as our Saviour taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be found in Christ, and Christ in
us.**

...God has us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people, and so
we pray together:

**We thank you, Lord, that when we were still far off, you met us
in your Son. He lived and died and rose again, declared your
love and opened the way to everlasting life.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink
his cup bring life to others; we who the Spirit lights give light to
the world.**

**Keep us in the hope we have in your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

Hymn: 315 Mine eyes have seen the glory

Benediction

Threefold amen

Postlude

Organist

Jeanette Steer

