



St Ives Uniting Church

15th August 2021

Pentecost 12

Call to worship and lighting the Christ Candle

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:1-3)

We light the Christ Candle to remind us that Jesus is the light that has shone in the darkness, and that we, who the Spirit lights are a light to the world.

Welcome!

We come together this morning, wherever we are, wishing that we could be meeting together, and we look forward to the time that we can. But in the meantime, we come together as we are today, wherever we are, joining together with each other and God's people across the world, to open the scriptures, to pray for ourselves and each other and to praise God.

Let's start by praising God, with the hymn...

Hymn: Immortal, invisible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oGuGzCFEWI>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Our prayer of adoration is from Psalm 105 (v1-5)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
Make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
Tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
Seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
His miracles, and the judgements he has uttered.

As we praise you God, we realise how much we fall short, how much we fall short of all we could be and all you desire us to be.

We fall short for many reasons:

We fall short because we are selfish,

We fall short because we are ignorant.

We fall short because we are greedy.

We fall short because we think we know best.

We fall short because we fail to heed God's wisdom in our lives.

Lord our God,
great, eternal, wonderful, utterly to be trusted:
you give life to all;
you help those who come to you;
And so we ask you to set our hearts and minds at peace,
we ask you for mercy and forgiveness now,
And for your guidance and wisdom always,
In the name of your son who died and rose for us all,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

God proves his love for us

in that while we still were sinners,

Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

So hear again Christ's word of grace to us "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Blessed assurance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEeBo1fwzkU>

Offering prayer

Jesus said: "Let your light so shine among others,

so that they may see your good works

and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

In gratitude for all that God has done for us, we dedicate our offerings, to God.

Let us pray:

We offer the gifts of our lives, Lord,

for the work of your Church

and the welfare of your people;
acknowledging with gratitude that we could give nothing
if you had not first given to us.
Help us to use all we have
In accordance with your good will
and for the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

Bible Readings: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Ephesians 5:15-20 – Beth

Sermon: Wise choices

Hymn: May the mind of Christ my saviour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE5fOXSymBc>

Prayers of the people – Lawrence

Father God we now come to the time when we hold all those in need before you for strengthening, healing and blessing.

Father we continue to pray for the rapid and safe roll out of the various vaccines for the Covid virus. Only after these have been widely administered can the world be restored to some semblance of normality. We pray that the number of fully vaccinated people in Australia can rise quickly to the level when livelihoods and daily activity can be resumed; and that small businesses, crippled by these lockdowns, can finally start to earn a living again.

We also pray Father that all those working on the front lines in the medical fields can stay safe and well protected as they reach out to help and heal.

Father we pray for all those people around the world currently suffering and dying due to the ravages of this pandemic.

Father, we pray for Afghanistan as Australian and US troops have now withdrawn, leaving the country to govern itself. May the Afghan Government and the Taliban forces be able to come to some workable arrangement whereby the country can recover from bitter conflict and grow in peace and stability.

We pray for the safety of the Afghani translators who have co-operated with US and Australian forces, and as a consequence are at real risk of retribution.

May our Government operate with all possible speed and minimum bureaucracy to allow refuge to be offered in Australia.

Father we give thanks for the Olympic Games in Tokyo which closed last Sunday. We give thanks for the officials and athletes and all those responsible for keeping the games as safe as possible. We give thanks for the athletes who, whilst competing under such strict regulations, were able to promote sportsmanship, team spirit, excellence and national pride. We pray that these games will promote harmony and good fellowship around the world.

Father, we note that recently 14,000 scientists from 34 countries have reported to the magazine Bioscience about the effects of global warming on our planet earth. With such little time left to make any major improvement, may our leaders in all countries realise the urgency of the problem, and have the courage to make hard decisions even if unpopular. Father we know you love your wonderful creation of our planet earth and we ask for the wisdom to care for it and preserve it for our children and future generations.

Finally Father, we pray for this your Church here at St Ives. We are all yearning to come together in person but are unable for the moment. Bind us together Father as we care for each other as best we can remotely. We thank you for modern technology which can allow us to see, hear and share with each other, even if not in person.

We pray for all those in our family who are battling illness, low spirits, loneliness and uncertainty. We ask that they will know your blessing and feel the comfort and strength of your Holy Spirit as He surrounds them. Please support them, encourage them and give them peace.

Show us Father the real and practical ways in which we can help wherever possible.

We give thanks for the ministry of Richie as he now leads us week by week. We thank you for his faith and inspiration and ask for your blessing upon both him and Beth as we worship together in the next months.

And we ask all these things in and through the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day 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.

주님의 기도

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지,

아버지의 이름이 거룩히 빛나시며

아버지의 나라가 오시며

아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이 땅에서도 이루어지소서.

오늘 저희에게 일용할 양식을 주시고

저희에게 잘못된 이를 저희가 용서하오니

저희 죄를 용서하시고

저희를 유혹에 빠지지 않게 하시고

악에서 구하소서

(주님께 나라와 권능과 영광이 영원히 있나이다.)

아멘.

Hymn: Be thou my vision <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE5fOXSymBc>

Benediction

As we finish our time together,

May we know God's wisdom in our hearts

And act on that wisdom in our lives.

And may we know God's blessing today and always.

Amen.

Readings for next week

Lectionary: 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20;
John 6:56-69

For worship: John 6:56-69; Ephesians 6:10-20