

St Ives Uniting Church

On line worship

1 August 2021

Welcome and lighting of Christ Candle

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the almighty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNq0WtMSmIY>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Lord, creator and sustainer of us all,

We come together today, wherever we are, we come to worship you because you have called us to be your people.

We thank you for all the gifts of human life, for the richness of creation, for our fellowship as your people, for the freedom to worship you, for the time we are able to spend in our homes praising and honouring you.

As we focus our hearts and minds on you now,
We know that you are beyond our sight, above our thought,
infinite, eternal, and unsearchable:
your wisdom shines in all your works;
your glory is shown in your goodness to all people;
your grace and truth are revealed in Christ.

Therefore, we adore you, our God,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

We continue in prayer:

Loving God,

We look at the world us, and we see that things aren't right. And while we might not be murdering or outright stealing, we realise we are part of the world and part of its problems. So often we think we're not the problem – but while we are pointing to others and saying they're the problem, we're lifting ourselves up by pushing others down.

Your son's last prayer from the cross, was asking for the forgiveness of others. "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing."

And so, loving Father, we ask you to help us to forgive others, just as you forgive us.

We ask you to forgive us now for the times when we have done wrong, the times that we have failed to do what is right, for the times we've spoken when we should have stayed silent, for the times that we've stayed silent when we should have spoken out and for all those times when we have been oblivious to our own sinfulness.

We ask you to forgive us, to renew us, and to inspire us, as your people, to your glory.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ: Know that the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love toward those who fear Him.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=047xtru0ZR0>

Bible readings:

John 6:24-29 (NIV)

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life,

which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Sermon: Here is the church

Hymn: The church's one foundation

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

Prayers of offering and intercession

We thank you, Creator God, for all you have given us,
And the gifts that we offer you – the gifts of money, time and energy –
We offer to you so that they may be used to your glory,
to share the good news of Jesus, and to help our neighbours in need.
And we offer them to you, in the name of your Son and our saviour,
Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

O Lord our God, even when we were far off, you showed us your boundless love in the life, death and resurrection of your son. We come in prayer to you now, bringing you our thanks and setting before you our needs and our concerns for ourselves, each other, and the whole world.

We give you thanks for all the wonders of human life, for the world, and for its nations and people. We see the way that people have come together for the Olympics, despite all the concerns of the world, and even as we rejoice with the victors, we feel for the losers, and we see the love and encouragement of their coaches, families and friends, and even entire nations.

But we also remember all those who are in need around the world, especially those who are suffering from the effects of Covid-19. Even Japan as it hosts the games is reporting thousands of cases a day. We uphold to you the poorest nations of the world, those struggling most with the pandemic, and pray that you will guide those nations blessed with resources to help those in need.

We give you thanks for our community, for our families and friends. For the support and fellowship, even in these lockdown time. We pray especially for those who live alone, and for those without access to the technology that so many of us have which makes lockdown so much more tolerable.

And we remember particularly in our prayers this morning our family and friends who are sick, for those who are distressed and despairing and for those who mourn, and we bring each of them before you in a moment of silence.

We pray that you will help those who care for people in need for doctors, nurses and medical professionals, for ministers, for social workers and

counsellors, those who care for children and those who care for the frail and the aged.

And we ask, Lord that each and every person who suffers and each and every person in need will know your healing and comfort in their lives.

We give you thanks for your church throughout the ages, in all its traditions and its denominations.

We give thanks for your church here at St Ives Uniting, praising you for the faithful service of its members, and thanking you the facilities that we have.

We thank you for the ministry of Trevor over the last six months, and ask you to bless his future ministry at South Turramurra.

And be with us here, as we move to the next stage of ministry together, and look to the future.

Help us to put our faith in you, Lord. Help us to put our trust and our future in your hands, grant us understanding and wisdom in all things, and give us the strength to follow that wisdom.

We pray all these things through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit and 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 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.

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

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

Benediction

As God has called us, let us live up to our calling. Let us be humble always and gentle and patient too. Let us spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives.

And as we finish our time together, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us this day and always.

Amen.

Readings for next week (August 8): **John 6:51-58**, Ephesians 4:25-5:2