



# St Ives Uniting Church

29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Pentecost 14

**Welcome and lighting of the Christ Candle** - Lawrence

**Hymn:** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K\\_\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K__I)

### **Prayers of adoration and confession**

God of love, who created us;  
who continually preserves and sustains us;  
who has loved us with an everlasting love,  
and given us the light of the knowledge of his glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord.

We rejoice in your Son,  
though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor;  
he was tempted as we are, yet without sin;  
he lived as one of us, healed the sick, reached out to the outcast,  
and preached the gospel of the kingdom;  
he was obedient to death on the cross;  
he died and rose again;  
he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who turn to him in faith.

We rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life:  
whose witness confirms us;  
whose wisdom teaches us;  
whose power enables us.  
By the Spirit we are born into the family of God,  
and made members of Christ's body.  
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
To you be glory and power, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

And we continue in prayer:

Most merciful God,

we open our hearts to you, to confess our sins, and to lay our burdens at the foot of the cross of Christ our saviour, and so we confess that

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 and weakness;

we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

And so 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**

The prophet Ezekiel tells us, God says:

I will make a covenant of peace with you;

my dwelling place shall be with you,

and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 37.26-27)

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

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn:** What a friend we have in Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLb96KDkJys>

### **Offering prayer**

We read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor 9:7) that "Each should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." And so we commit our offerings to God, no matter what we give, or where we give, and we pray:

Loving God,

We thank you lord for gifts of our work and our lives, and ask you to accept them returned to you. Guide us, and people everywhere in the wise and faithful use of the gifts that we give and have, so that all people may hear your call, come to know your Son and experience the joy of your kingdom.

And we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Notices**

### **Bible readings**

#### **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup> Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

<sup>6</sup> Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” <sup>7</sup> What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? <sup>8</sup> And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup> Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

#### **Mark 7:1-8**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup> and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

<sup>6</sup> He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honour me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.’

<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

**Sermon:** How will they know us?

**Hymn:** The Law of the Lord is perfect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn2N0t3dKVs>

**Prayer for others** - Lawrence

**Hymn:** Let us sing to the God of salvation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpUrqcF\\_7FQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpUrqcF_7FQ)

### **Benediction**

As we finish our time of worship together, and continue our lives in lockdown, let us keep God's commandments in our hearts and minds, and live them out each day as a witness to what God has done for us in Jesus. When people encounter us, even in this time of lockdown, let them see the love of God in our lives.

And 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**

**Lectionary:** Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

**For worship:** Psalm 125, James 2:1-17