



St Ives Uniting Church

8th August 2021

Pentecost 11

Welcome and lighting the Christ Candle – Lawrence

Hymn: The power of your love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLqmBOWKG5U>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Eternal God and Father,
in you is the source of all life,
the font of all wisdom,
the well-spring of all grace.
Your days are without end,
your loving mercies without number.
We depend on you;
and we remember your goodness to us and to those who have gone before us.
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God of a pilgrim people, your church.
You are ahead of us, leading us,
guiding us and calling us;
Providing for us and nourishing us.
You are the Lord God,
the all-wise, all-compassionate.
To you we lift up our hearts in joyful praise and we worship and adore you,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Friends,
We have come, as God's people – as God's family, into God's presence.
So let us now, in silence,
tell God that we are sorry for the wrong we have done,
and ask for forgiveness.
For the Lord is a God of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, and rich in graciousness.
God our Father,
you love us with a love that never ends

But we confess, with sorrow,
that we have loved neither you nor our neighbour
as we should.

You have called us to be your people,
but we confess, with shame,
that our response has often been half-hearted and indecisive.
We have cared for ourselves more than others,
And we have not shared our blessings as we should.

And so we ask you, loving God,
To enable us to face up to what we really are,
So that, turning to you in penitence and faith,
we may receive forgiveness and healing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life;
Hear again Jesus' word of grace to us all "your sins are forgiven"
Thanks be to God

Hymn: Be still my soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxLV4zRmhm8>

Prayer of offering

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews
13:16)

We have been richly blessed by God, and God calls us to be a blessing to
others. We bring our offerings to God in different ways, in different places and at
different times. But let us know commit those offerings to God in prayer:

Lord God of power and might,
giver of all that is good,

Was ask you to graciously receive the gifts we offer;

Gifts of our lives and work, gifts of our wealth, gifts of our time,

Guide us in their wise and faithful use, so that all our service give you glory and
praise;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices – Lawrence

Bible readings – Lawrence***John 6:51-58 (NIV)***

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NIV)

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ⁵ ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sermon – The living bread

Hymn – Seek ye first <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMQfOp9w8k>

Prayers of the people

Our prayers of intercession today take the form of a meditation of the poetry of the book of Ecclesiastes.

Gracious God,

The scriptures tell us there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, (3:1-2)

Lord, you are with us in every phase our lives. You share our celebrations, our joys, our sorrow and our grief. We think of the joys and sorrows surrounding the

Olympic Games – the records made, and the dreams failed. Help all people as they come to terms with their successes and failures.

Even more so, we think of all of those whose lives are affected by Covid. For those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost livelihoods, those who are isolated from those they love and care for. Give them hope, even in these darkest of time.

Comfort us in our sadness and help us always to recognise your hand in our happiness.

The scriptures tell us there is a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, (3:3)

We remember especially this morning all of those known to us who are in need of healing in their lives.

We pray for your healing to be at work in the lives of all those we know who are sick, those who mourn, those who long for company and friendship.

We pray too for all of those suffering directly from Covid – from those with the mildest of symptoms, to those in intensive care and those on ventilators. We uphold to you the medical professionals who care for them.

As we look forward to a time when covid restrictions ease, Lord, guide the works of our hands. Help us to do what is right, to bring comfort and healing; and through your people, inspired by your Holy Spirit, bring about your kingdom on earth.

The scriptures tell us there is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, (3:4)

We are your people, Lord, created in your image. Help us to celebrate our diversity and our unity, and be with us in the highs and lows of human life. Be with us as we embrace each other in joy, just as when we hold each other in sorrow.

In these hard times, be with us as we weep with our neighbours across the world, but help us always look forward to the time when all things will be made right,

The scriptures tell us there is a time to scatter stones and time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, (3:5)

Help us to be your people sharing the good news in St Ives and throughout the world. Help us to recognise your way amongst all the ways of the world, and guide each one of us to share in the living bread, and to follow him all our lives. Help us to share that living bread when and as we can.

The scriptures tell us there is a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, (3:6)

Help us to be stewards of your creation; to use resources wisely and fairly, to meet the needs of people today and in the future, and to recognise the work of those that have gone before us.

Give us patience and wisdom, Lord, so that we may use the gifts you have given us to help those in need.

The scriptures tell us there is a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, (3:7)

Help us as your people to stand against what is wrong in the world. Help us to turn away from rumour and gossip, and give us the strength to speak out against oppression, exploitation and greed.

We pray too for the tyrants of this world. For people who oppress and exploit. Open their hearts by your Holy Spirit, that they would turn away from evil and turn to you.

And we pray that our political leaders, our representatives, will rule with justice tempered with mercy. That we as individuals, as a community and as a country will be generous and will work to help those in need.

The scriptures tell us there is a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. (3:8)

Lord, our lives are affected by conflict at so many levels. Across the world, within societies, communities, families and social groups. Help us to have compassion for those who are not like us, for those who believe different things than we do, those who march against things we hold as good. Help us to be known by our love toward others, rather than our anger toward them.

Gracious God, you sent your son into the fallen world to be the living bread for all people. We ask you to inspire us by your Holy Spirit, so that we may feed on that living bread today and always.

And we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

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 – Guide me O thou great redeemer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j48TLIRb4Q>

Blessing

Jesus said: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

May you receive the bread that Jesus offers, and may you feed on him in your heart, today and always, with thanksgiving.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Readings for next week: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Ephesians 5:15-20