



St Ives Uniting Church

24th October 2021

Pentecost 22

Call to worship and lighting the Christ candle - Lawrence

Hymn: All creatures of our God and King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJRqM45Y8Gk>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Eternal God,

it was your Spirit, hovering over the waters at the dawning of that first day.

It was your voice echoing through the darkness, that brought forth light.

Eternal God,

it was your love that birthed humankind, and placed them in a garden.

It was your hand that helped them to their feet, each and every time they fell.

Eternal God,

it was your prophets who spoke forth your word, to generation after generation.

It was your Son who showed the depth of love that will not let us go.

Eternal God,

It is your love enfolds us, and your Spirit that fills us.

It is your sunrise that wakes us, and your sunset that amazes us.

It is your promise that sustains us, and your power that upholds us,

It is your patience and grace that humble us, and your love that heals and comforts us,

Eternal God,

You have always loved us, and by grace you have saved us.

And today, as always, we praise your holy name, and give you the glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

When we look around at the world, we see that things aren't right. We often fall into thinking that we're doing the best we can, and we're not really the problem, but while we are pointing to others and saying they're the problem, we're lifting ourselves up by pushing others down.

Each time we come together, we confess our sins and are reminded of God's forgiveness, and we are called on, as followers of Christ, to forgive others. When we pray the Lord's prayer, we pray "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us".

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

It was a hard thing to do, and maybe the thing we most have to ask God's forgiveness for, is our own failure to forgive others.

So let's pray...

We do not presume to come to you Lord, trusting in our own efforts, but only in your mercy to us. We are not worthy of you, but you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy, the same Lord who, even when we were far off, sent his Son to meet us, call us and to bring us home.

Though we have turned away from you, and sought the comfort, wealth, power and prestige of the world, though we have stayed silent when we should have spoken, and spoken when we should have stayed silent, though we have turned away from those in need, and put ourselves first, though we have blamed others and failed to take responsibility, we ask you, Lord, to forgive us, to cleanse us, and to change us, for our saviour Jesus Christ's sake, so that we may live our lives to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

The apostle John reminds us:

If we confess our sins,

God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

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

Thanks be to God.

Offering prayer

Gracious God,

We offer you the gifts of our lives, our energy, our money and our time, in many places, at many times and in many ways. We ask you to take these gifts and guide us in their faithful use, so that your creation will be cared for, your love to all people shown, and your kingdom will grow.

In the name of the Father who creates, the Son who saves, and the Spirit who empowers.

Amen.

Hymn: This I believe (The Creed) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRzI_FbWTkg

Notices

Bible readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9, Mark 10:46-52

Jeremiah 31:7-9

⁷ This is what the Lord says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.

Make your praises heard, and say,
‘Lord, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labour;
a great throng will return.

⁹ They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel’s father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

This is the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Blind Bartimaeus

Hymn: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSM2bW0v-tw>

Prayer for others

Let us bring our prayers for others to God,

Gracious God ,

You have loved us with an everlasting love, and have reached out to us in your Son. We reach out to you now, as your people here at St Ives. We give thanks for the many wonders of this world and our lives, and we pray for ourselves, our community, and the world.

We give you thanks for our families and our friends: For help and support, sympathy and encouragement.

And we also remember in prayer all our family and friends who are sick, for those who are distressed and lonely, for those who mourn loved ones and for those who are unable to maintain contact with others or the church.

We know you know all their needs, but we take a moment to name them in the silence, to offer ourselves to be part of working to bring about healing and peace in their lives.

We pray that you will help those who reach out and care for them, doctors, nurses, counsellors, for ministers, and carers.

And we pray, Lord, for your healing hand to be upon everyone those who we don't know, but who suffer and those who we don't know who are in need.

As we prepare to return to gathering as your people here at St Ives Uniting Church, we give you thanks for our community here, the community that is based in this building, and whose influence and involvement stretches to so many people.

We ask you to bless and guide our church council. Give them wisdom and discernment as they serve you and your people in this place and beyond.

We give thanks for the opportunities for fellowship and friendship together. And as we look to the lifting of restrictions, help us find opportunities to build ties with the wider community. We ask you to bless and empower those preparing for Carols in the Park in December, and encourage us and members of all the participating churches in supporting that activity.

As we are more and more able to meet with other people, we ask that you will help us to reach out to them, and encourage them to get to know you.

We give you thanks for our country – its natural beauty, its wealth, its many opportunities and its beauty. We pray for our elected leaders and our officials at commonwealth, state and local level. We think of all the work that has gone to managing the pandemic, for such a long time. We give thanks for what you have done through them, and pray that they – and we – will be patient and compassionate as we continue to move out of lockdown.

And we pray for the people of rural Australia, those who are stewards of our vast land, we ask that you will give them wisdom in the use of scarce resources, and to ensure the future our precious environment.

We remember the first people of Australia. Those who are so often neglected. Those who are so often disadvantaged. Those who are so often exploited. Help all people to be mindful of them in all the decisions of our lives.

We give you thanks for the blessings of our lives, for all that we have. Lord, keep us mindful of those who do not enjoy the blessings we have, and help us always to be generous to those in need.

Give us appreciation of what we have, and guide us in the best ways to use it. We remember for the homeless, the hungry, the people who are oppressed, the people who are imprisoned, the refugees forced to leave their homes and their homelands.

We pray for all people throughout the world, for the rich, the poor, those in need, and those who have plenty.

Guide us in peace and justice, Lord, so we can all work together in trust, to seek the common good and share with justice all the resources of our world.

We give you thanks for the church throughout the world, and pray for faithfulness, courage and energy for all who lead and teach, and we ask you to help us to uphold and encourage them in any way we can, so that we can work together to learn, to share and to grow in knowledge of you.

Help each one of us, every day, to step out in faith and follow Jesus, 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.

As we are at the threshold of returning to face-to-face worship next week, this next hymn, this next hymn – a favourite of many people – is an appropriate one to conclude our time of dispersed worship, in particular this verse really speaks to me in our present circumstances:

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come:

God's grace has brought me safe thus far

and grace will lead me home.

Hymn: Amazing grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT0JvdAkTNU>

Benediction - Lawrence