



St Ives Uniting Church

3rd October 2021

Pentecost 19

Call to worship and lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: God has spoken by his prophets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoPiKqKTmbg>

Prayers of adoration and confession

God of creation
we see you all around us:
in the tall trees that make the shade;
in the wind that chills us;
in the clouds that carry the rain;
in the moon that says goodnight ,
and in the sun that warms us each day.

God of life
we feel your love for us in so many ways:
the people who touch our lives;
old friends who share life with us;
the sound of children laughing;
and in the smiles of first love,
and the warmth of lives spent together.

God of the morning and the evening,
God of all our days,
all glory be yours
now and forever;
in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Friends, as we contemplate God's majesty and glory, his light shows the darkness of our own lives, and so we pray together:

Merciful God,
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.
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 apostle Paul tells us:

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,
not counting our trespasses against us,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

By the authority of Jesus Christ
I declare that God has mercy on you,
pardons you and sets you free.
Know that your sins are forgiven
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

Hymn: Here in this place <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6GeFXAHp90>

Notices - Lawrence

Bible readings:

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

^{1:1} In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

^{2:5} It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honour

⁸ and put everything under their feet."

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

Sermon: God’s final word

Hymn: To God be the glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

Prayer for others

Let us open our hearts to God, praying for ourselves, each other and the whole world.

Father almighty, creator and sustainer of us all: You have loved us with an everlasting love, and you have reached out to us in your Son. We reach out to you now, giving thanks for the many wonders of this world and our lives, and praying for ourselves, our community centred on your congregation here in St Ives, and the world.

We give you thanks for the Christian church throughout the ages, for the wise and godly teaching of our leaders and ministers. We thank you for those who have carried the good news of Jesus across the years, and across the seas, so that all may learn of your saving grace.

Encourage all those in Christian ministry across the world, Lord, and continue to raise up teachers and leaders amongst your faithful followers everywhere, so that your word will be heard by all people, and all people will have the opportunity to come to know you.

We give you thanks for the many wonders of human life, for the world, and for its nations and people.

We give you thanks particularly for our country and our way of life. All the things we have.

We pray for our elected leaders at commonwealth, state and local level. We pray that all those in power will exercise their authority justly, and with mercy. Particularly through this extended Covid pandemic, we uphold them to you: Give them strength and endurance to lead our country out of the pandemic, and give them patience as they deal with all the complications and details around that process.

And we pray for all those who are in need around the world. Those who are oppressed. Those who hunger. Those who suffer. Those who are imprisoned. Those who battle with drought. Those who battle with floods.

We continue to uphold the people of Afghanistan. Even in the face of a situation that seems to have no clear resolution, we hope that you will inspire all involved to find a way forward – a way which brings peace to that country which has been through so much for so long. We thank you for the opportunity to support the people of Afghanistan in a practical way, and ask for your guidance and wisdom as we consider how best to use the money raised to help them.

We give you thanks for the many material blessings we enjoy. For food and shelter, for security and safety. Lord, keep us mindful of all those people do not enjoy the blessings we have, and help us to be generous where ever we can.

Guide all people 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 our families and our friends. For support and encouragement, for sympathy when we need it, for times of quiet, and for open conversation. As we look forward to the lifting of Covid-related restrictions, help us all to be patient, help us all to be considerate of our neighbours. Help us not to judge those who have a harder time with the myriad of rules than we do. Help us to be mindful of those in situations far more difficult than our own.

We give thanks for Seng Eng, and all those who provide pastoral care within our congregation. We pray that all will share your love for us in practical ways, providing support, encouragement, and sympathy as well as sharing in hopes, achievements and celebrations.

Lord, we remember in our prayers our family and friends who are sick, for those who are distressed, and for those who mourn.

We pray that you will help those who care for people in need, for ministers, for Lifeline volunteers, those who care for children, those who care for the aged. And we pray, Lord that each and every person who suffers and each and every person in need will know your healing in their lives.

Keep us confident that by your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us (1Pet 3-4)

As we near the end of restrictions, help us to keep our faith in you, Lord. Help us to put our trust and our future in your hands. Give us patience and wisdom as we wait for the time when we can gather together, and help us to live as your people in strange times: shining a light into darkness, and preparing your way.

We ask you to hear our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our saviour

Amen.

Holy Communion

Hymn: Sent forth by God's blessing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvW9yGEunOE>

Benediction

Friends, we have been brought together by God's love, saved by Christ's sacrifice, and sustained by the Spirit's love.

Know that you are blessed by God, today tomorrow and forever.

Amen.