



St Ives Uniting Church

26th September 2021

Pentecost 18

Call to worship and welcome

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

(1 John 1:7)

And so, as we join together in worship, wherever we are, we light the candle to remind us of the light of Christ that has come into the world.

Welcome to worship here at St Ives Uniting Church. Even though we are still apart, it is good to be able to join together. Soon, we hope and pray, we will be gathering here again on a Sunday morning, to worship, to pray, to listen for God's word, and to have fellowship together.

Hopefully, that will be at the end of next month, but we will be ready to be back together earlier if we can... In the meantime, we continue on-line, giving thanks for the technology that enables us to come together, even though we are apart.

Let's begin by worshipping God in song:

Hymn: O worship the king, all glorious above
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAyKmYD2Zg8>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Our prayer of adoration this morning is Psalm 99

The Lord reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.

² Great is the Lord in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy.

⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity;
in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

⁵ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool;
he is holy.

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel was among those who called on his name;
they called on the Lord
and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

⁸ Lord our God,
you answered them;
you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.^[a]

⁹ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the Lord our God is holy.

As we stand before the glory of God, we are aware that we all fall short, we all need God's forgiveness, and so we pray:

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves,
And most of all we have not loved you with our whole heart;
But trusting in your promises to us:
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
We ask you to have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will
and walk humbly with you,
to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ: God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life. It was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world, but that through him the world might be saved....

hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Sing Hallelujah to the Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_COSNbOQBNA

Bible readings

Mark 9:2-10

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with

him I am well pleased.”¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Sermon: Changed on the mountaintop

Hymn: Shine, Jesus, Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=op17raOTXbk>

Prayers For Others

Father God we now come to the time when we hold all those in need before you for strengthening, healing and blessing.

Father we pray for all those people around the world still suffering and dying due to the ravages of this Covid pandemic. We pray for those separated from loved ones and those recovering from the long term effects of this disease. We pray for those who are tired, depressed and depleted after such a long haul under crippling circumstances. We pray for our leaders who not only face great uncertainties as they try to plan but also a constant stream of criticism and anger. Give them wisdom we pray so that they can seek the very best outcome for all in these difficult circumstances.

Father we continue to pray for the rapid and safe roll out of the various vaccines for the Covid virus. Only after these have been widely administered can the world be restored to some semblance of normality. We pray that the number of fully vaccinated people in Australia continues to rise quickly to the level when livelihoods and daily activity can be resumed; and that businesses, crippled by these lockdowns, can finally start to earn a living again.

As we gradually move to open up, may the vaccines offer the protection needed so that hospitals and ICU units are not overwhelmed with new cases needing attention.

Father we pray for all the refugees from Afghanistan newly arrived in Australia. As they seek to recover from the unbelievable humanitarian disaster in their homeland and are faced with a new and unfamiliar language and environment; may we at St Ives, local councils, charities, churches and the Government do all that we possibly can to help them settle in and feel secure in their new home.

Father, we pray for our newly launched Afghan Appeal - may we be generous in our giving and guide us to find the best avenue to channel these funds when collected.

Finally Father, we pray for this your Church here at St Ives. We pray for all those in our church family who are battling illness, low spirits, loneliness and uncertainty. We ask that they will know your blessing and feel the comfort and strength of your Holy Spirit as He surrounds them. Please support them, encourage them and give them peace. We hold them before you now in a moment's silence.

We pray for Beth and Richie. We give thanks for Richie as he leads and inspires us week by week, and as he reaches out in this lockdown to meet as many as possible, may the time come soon when restrictions are lifted and reaching out can become easier. As we struggle to worship together and keep safe, we give thanks for all the efforts of those who have striven to bind us together as a loving community.

Jesus has promised that when two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there – and so we give thanks Father that each week as we gather together – in spirit during these lockdowns - Jesus your Son is in our midst. And we join in his prayer now,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day 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: Mine eyes have seen the glory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ic4w_UEpCQ

Benediction

As we finish our time together today, remember that you are the light of the world.

Let your light so shine before others

that they may see your good works

and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14, 16)

And may you know the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in your lives today and always.

Amen