



St Ives Uniting Church

5th September 2021

Pentecost 15

Call to worship and welcome

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

– Isaiah 9:2

As we begin our worship, we light the Christ candle, and remember that light that has dawned for each one of us, and still shines for us today.

Welcome to worship! Happy Fathers' Day!

Here we are, still in lockdown, but still glad that we can join in worship together, to sing songs of praise, to read the scriptures and seek God's word for our lives, to pray for ourselves and the whole world, and to share in the Lord's supper – in our service of Holy Communion.

It is with joy that we come together, and it is with joy that we praise God in song:

Hymn: Joyful, joyful <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtvxwsiRge4>

Prayers of adoration and confession

Merciful God, Father to us all,
be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us,
so that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

We praise you with all your people across the world.

Let all the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

With all your people across the world, we honour you, we praise you:

You are our God, and you have blessed us - in the wonders of creation, and most of all the gift of your son.

We praise you and adore you, today, and all our days to come.

Amen

We read in the book of Revelation that Jesus says:

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

(Revelation 3:20)

So let us open the doors of our hearts to Jesus, as we confess our sins and pray:

Almighty God, father of us all,

We acknowledge before you all the times we have failed to live as you would have us live.

We realise we have hurt others with our actions, words, and inaction.

We realise we have neglected some and favoured others.

We realise we have sought the favour of the wealthy and the proud, and ignored our neighbours who are poor and meek.

We realise we have glorified ourselves, by putting others down.

And so, Lord, we ask you, in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, to forgive us our sins, to change us, so that we can serve you, and live together as your people.

Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

The prophet Ezekiel tells us that God desires not the death of a sinner, but that all should turn to him and live.

So hear again the words of Jesus "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God.

As forgiven people, we commit ourselves to our saviour, so let us sing:

Hymn: Take my life and let it be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of4l5bTdZ8Ms>

Notices - Lawrence

Bible readings: Psalm 125, James 2:1-7 - Caroline

Psalm 125

¹ Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and forevermore.

³ The sceptre of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,

for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

⁴ Lord, do good to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

⁵ But those who turn to crooked ways
the Lord will banish with the evildoers.

Peace be on Israel.

James 2:1-7

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Sermon: People like us?

Hymn: Beauty for brokenness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5_TVy2gHRg

Offering prayer

Loving God, Father of us all,

We give you thanks for the gifts you have given us.

We commit our offerings of our love, our time and our wealth to you,
asking that you will guide us all in their faithful use:

To care for our neighbours, to share the good news of Jesus, and to be part of
bringing your peace and healing to all of creation.

Amen

Prayer for others – Seng Eng

Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FBSrx5Oq4>

Holy Communion

Blessing