



St Ives United Methodist Church

27 September 2026

Pentecost 18

Call to worship and welcome

The Christ candle

Hymn: 111 Praise to the Lord

Prayers of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 78:1-4,12-19

- ¹ My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- ² **I will open my mouth with a parable;**
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
- ³ things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
- ⁴ **We will not hide them from their descendants;**
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- ¹² He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
- ¹³ **He divided the sea and led them through;**
he made the water stand up like a wall.
- ¹⁴ He guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night.
- ¹⁵ **He split the rocks in the wilderness**
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
- ¹⁶ he brought streams out of a rocky crag
and made water flow down like rivers.
- ¹⁷ **But they continued to sin against him,**
rebellious in the wilderness against the Most High.

¹⁸ They wilfully put God to the test
by demanding the food they craved.

¹⁹ **They spoke against God;
they said, “Can God really
spread a table in the wilderness?”**

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ’s word of grace,
“Your sins are forgiven.”

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 217(i) Love divine

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7

Robyn Egarr

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarrelled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?”

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you

struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Philippians 2:1-18

Marion Berry

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: Being the church

Hymn: 658 I the Lord of sea and sky

Offering and prayer

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s prayer

Hymn: 547 Be thou my vision

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

John Hughes