St Ives Uniting Church

8 November 2026

Pentecost 24

Call to worship and welcome

The Christ candle

Hymn: 143 Immortal, invisible

Prayer of adoration

Responsive reading: Psalm 78:1-7

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.
5 He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
6 so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
7 Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

Prayer of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace,
"Your sins are forgiven."
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 745 Seek ye first

Notices Lawrence Peak

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 40:3-5, 10-12, 22-26 Beth Dulin

3 A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

25 "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Matthew 25:1-13 Jill McNamara

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish
ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you.
Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.
The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And
the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for
us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: How much oil do we have?

Hymn: 659 The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow

Offering and prayer

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s prayer Beth Dulin

Hymn: Give me oil in my lamp (Tune: Sing Hosanna, 52)

Benediction

Response:783(ii) Threefold Amen

Postlude **Pianist** Debbie Tung