



St Ives Uniting Church

30 November 2025

Advent 1

Call to worship and welcome

Lighting the Advent candle – Hope

Today, we light the first Advent Candle
We kindle it with hope.

May we who share in the light of this first Advent candle, share the light of Christ with the world.

Keep us in the hope we have in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Hymn: 272 Come thou long expected Jesus

Prayer of adoration and confession

Responsive reading – Psalm 42

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

² **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?**

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

⁴ **These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God**

**under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.**

⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.**

⁸ By day the Lord directs his love,
**at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.**

⁹ I say to God my Rock,

“Why have you forgotten me?

**Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”**

¹⁰ My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,

**saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”**

¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.**

Hymn: 136 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Assurance of forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God.

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

Matthew 24:36-44

Susanne Hledik

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Galatians 5:13-23

Beth Dulin

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are

not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Waiting.

Hymn: 123 Be still my soul

Offering and prayer

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people

Annette Burne

The Lord's prayer

Hymn: 526 Lord Jesus Christ

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Pianist

Lawrence Peak

