



St Ives Uniting Church

21 September 2025

Pentecost 15

Call to worship and welcome

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,

and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The home of God is with us.

God will dwell with us, and we shall be his people.

(Revelation 11:15, 21:3)

Hymn: 161Tell out, my soul

Prayer of adoration

Prayer of confession

(Psalm 79:5-9)

How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever?

How long will your jealousy burn like fire?

Pour out your wrath on the nations

that do not acknowledge you,

on the kingdoms

that do not call on your name;

for they have devoured Jacob

and devastated his homeland.

Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;

may your mercy come quickly to meet us,

for we are in desperate need.

Help us, God our Savior,

for the glory of your name;

deliver us and forgive our sins

for your name's sake.

Amen

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace, "Your sins are forgiven".

Thanks be to God

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Hymn: 430 Your words to me are life and health

Bible readings

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Robyn Egarr

¹⁰ Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

¹¹ As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹² The sleep of a labourer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.

¹⁵ Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶ This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?

¹⁷ All their days they eat in darkness,
with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Luke 16:1-13

Caroline Turner

¹⁶ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels^[b] of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly

wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: The shrewd manager

Hymn: 599 Take my life, and let it be (Tune: Nottingham)

Offering and prayer

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of intercession

Lawrence Peak

The Lord’s prayer

Hymn: 595 O Jesus, I have promised

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

Jim Abraham