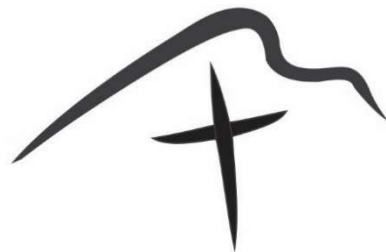




# Our Common Life Blackall Range Uniting Churches

Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods



## May 19 2019

We extend a sincere welcome to everyone. If you are visiting with us, please let us get to know you after the service. Morning tea is served in the Hall.

## You'll Know Them by Their Love

John 13:31-35

If we didn't know better, you'd think, by listening in to the chatter that goes on inside and outside the church, that being a Christian is a matter of correct doctrine, a person's attitude toward the Bible, belonging to the right religious organization or having the properly credentialled ethical or political views. However, Jesus made it clear that the identifying characteristic of those who truly follow him is that they love one another.

The law in Leviticus 19:17-18 stated that the members of the family of God are not to hold hatred in their hearts against any of their kindred. They are to love their neighbour as if it were themselves, but this was not to be a dishonest love which avoided the tough task of correcting wrong behaviour or warning about the possible consequences of wrong actions. Vengeance and the bearing of grudges are to have no place among them. Jesus took this instruction given to the people of Israel hundreds of years before he lived and applied it to his community of disciples.

If the general public aren't able to recognize Christian discipleship today, it must be because they have not seen this love in action. His disciples have not lived up to their calling. And I guess that has been the case with his disciples all through the centuries. This love for one another among Christians is but a particular instance of that broader love of neighbour that Jesus both lived and commanded. In spite of our failures, it still remains true – the distinguishing mark of a true follower of Jesus is self-giving love. And, deep down, the wider community knows this. It sees through the plethora of activities that the church is engaged in to look for self-sacrificing love and genuine acceptance of people, both Christian and non-Christian. That is the heart of Christian witness.

- What is the difference between Church membership and Christian discipleship?
- In what ways do we express self-giving love toward other followers of Christ?
- We can't show what we do not possess. How does a person come to have the self-giving love toward others that Jesus was talking about?
- What hinders us from living this way of self-giving love toward other followers of Christ and more widely to other people as well?

### WORD OF GOD:

• **John 13:34-35**

• <sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

• <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

### Services Today

Montville	8.15am	Mr Murray Robertson
Maleny	9.45am	Mr Murray Robertson
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Graham Warne
	1pm	Tongan Service

### Readings (Easter 5)

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148,  
Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

### Services Next Week May 26

Montville	8.15am	Rev Bruce Johnson
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Ron Potter
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Bruce Johnson
	1pm	Tongan Service

### Readings (Easter 6)

Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67,  
Revelation 21:10,22-22:5, John 14:23-29

### The Week Ahead

**Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville** (see over)

#### Tuesday May 21

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661

#### Wednesday May 22

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

#### Friday May 24

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

**Uniting in Christ | acting with love | living with hope | witnessing in faith | working for justice**

**Rev Ron Potter**

**Piula Publications**



Regulars to remember:

The Week Ahead:

Prayer Meeting 8.30am at Maleny Church (in week prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month) NOTE: Aug prayer meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat due to garage sale

Notices:

**PRAYER & MEDITATION**

'SOIL & SOUL' – (Palmwoods Community Garden) on Friday mornings at 8am. All welcome.

**Guided Gardening** at 7am each Saturday morning (weather permitting). Will be 8am when weather cools down.