Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches

Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

Uniting in Christ | Acting with love | Living with hope | Witnessing in faith | Working for justice

December 1 2019

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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.

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Services Today and Readings

Montville	8.15am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Liena Hoffman **HC**
Palmwoods	10.00am	Pastor Kay Nixon
	1.00pm	Tongan Service

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

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Services Next Week and Readings December 8

Montville	8.15am	Rev Liena Hoffman **HC**
Maleny	9.45am	Mr Peter Uhlmann
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Liena Hoffman **HC**

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalms 72:1-7,18-19,

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday December 3rd

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday December 4th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday December 5th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday December 6th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

Saturday December 7th

8.30am Prayer Meeting at Maleny Church

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Blackall Range Uniting Churches acknowledge the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi / Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional owners of this land.

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The Coming of the Ever-Present One

First Sunday in Advent
Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

So, we come again to Advent, the time of the year when we take up the theme of Christ's coming, his coming as an historical person born of Mary, and of the expectation that he will come again. Of course, we can't go into a detailed description of the Second Coming because it hasn't happened yet and in the New Testament it is spoken of only in metaphorical and imaginative language.

It is the assertion that one day we shall meet, person-to-person, with Jesus the true ruler or authority over all the world and that his reign which is currently hidden behind curtains of scepticism and ego will become evident to all. I think we should be wary though lest we confuse this Advent theme of coming with the idea that God lives in some detached, distant realm from which he makes only occasional visits to us.

God is the One in whom we live, and move and have our being. God is the creative power without which nothing exists. In breathing life into every human being (Genesis 2:7), God breaths something of God's own self. What looks to us like a coming is the in-breaking of the divine reality into our consciousness. God is always reaching out to us in love and grace. It is sin-blight that causes our blindness, hardness of heart that disables our recognition of the divine presence. God's dynamic presence, the Holy Spirit which is the Spirit of Christ is constantly at work, even in our own lives. His Spirit dwells within us (John 15:4) and we who wear Christ's uniform are called to live the part in our daily lives.

- What does this period of Advent leading up to Christmas mean to you?
- What do you think of Tennyson's line about God: "Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet"?
- What in Romans 13:11-14 suggests that our relationship with Christ is like wearing his uniform? What obligations does that lay upon us?
- Why does Jesus stress the importance of watchfulness in Matthew 24:36-44?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

ADVENT: THE COMING OF THE LORD

A time for reflection and expectation. We reflect on God's advent, how God continuously comes to us in storms, in a breeze, in the calm. God comes to us through heavenly and earthly angels. And of-course particularly through the baby of Bethlehem. We reflect on the meaning of Christ, the Son of God coming to us as Emmanuel, in humanity. We wonder about the King being born in a stable and where Jesus may be born today.

The themes for this year's Advent and Christmas Tree Festival is: *Old Becomes New at Christmas*. We are asked to reflect on the question if Christ were to be born today where would he be born? Amongst the *homeless*, amongst the *refugees* or perhaps in the remote *Outback*? So together with the traditional Sundays of Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace in Advent culminating with Love on Christmas Day we consider the homeless, the refugees and persons living in the Outback, all part of our large and diverse country. Yet, let us not only think afar, but also close to persons who are homeless, rough living, refugees and foreigners and those living in loneliness and isolation along the Blackall Range and the Sunshine Coast.

Let us take time during Advent 2019 to reflect upon *Old Becoming New* and may our old perceptions and stereotyping with regard to the homeless, refugees and the Outback become *new* through the Love of the baby born in a stable.

MEN'S GROUP CROQUET

Stuart Craig has organised a morning at the Range Croquet Club. No prior experience is required - there will be a couple of coaches on hand to explain the game and ensure that we have an enjoyable time. All men are welcome. **Monday 2nd December (tomorrow)** is the day, and we are **starting at 8.30 a.m**. to avoid the heat. We expect to finish about 11 a.m. Meet at the Naval Cadets building, which is adjacent to the Croquet Field, on the south side of the **Maleny Showgrounds**. There is a charge of $5 to cover expenses.

A SMALL CHALLENGE FOR YOU!!!

The Christmas Tree Festival Team encourage **YOU** to make a small tree as your contribution for C.T.F. Remember the theme this year is **OLD BECOMES NEW AT CHRISTMAS**. Please advise Nancy if you can help.

DONATIONS OF CHRISTMAS CAKES PLEASE

Yes it's that time of year again and the Maleny Street Carnival is almost here. Please leave your donations of Christmas Cakes in the kitchen by **9th December** at the Maleny church. Watch this space re the time to cut up the cakes for distribution. *Thank You.*

PRAYER & MEDITATION

'SOIL & SOUL' – (Palmwoods Community Garden) on Friday mornings at 7:45 – 8:15am. All welcome.

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

PRAYERS

Part of Our Common Life is to pray for one another, in joy and in support. Please let Dorothy or Rev Liena if you would like your name to be listed for prayer in Our Common Life.

REFLECTION GALLERY

You and your friends are invited to visit the Reflection Gallery in the Montville Uniting Church any day between 10 and 3 where Rev. Ron Potter presents his personal testimony in a collection of paintings exhibited under the theme of Spirit, Life and Wonder. If visiting groups want to make sure that it is open outside those hours contact Ron on 0407631314.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR BUSHFIRES

On Sunday 1 December, the Queensland Synod will join with the NSW/ACT Synod in holding a day of prayer for the bushfires.

On what is the first day of Advent, this will be a special day to acknowledge the efforts of all our emergency services, local authorities, volunteers and community members who continue to play a vital part in fighting the state-wide bushfires.

Congregations can mark this day in their Sunday services by using the Moderator's prayer (available in next week's Uniting News) and considering taking up an offering for the Bushfire Relief Appeal.

Rev David Baker
Moderator, Queensland Synod

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE

A recent news report suggested that Queenslanders will spend $9.7 billion at retailers over the Christmas season. Yes, you read that right: $9.7 billion. But if you don't fancy fighting for carparks at your local shopping mall or spending hours surfing the internet for the best online deals, *Journey* has put together some Christmas gift ideas that will help the community, both here and abroad. Read the article. Ben Rogers*Journey* Editor, QLD Synod

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OFFERINGS can be Direct Debited through the ANZ Bank, BSB 014-507 A/c 3762 29735.

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Ministry Contacts:

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