



Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches



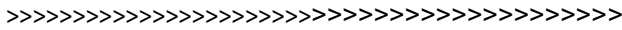
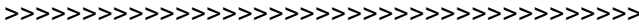
Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

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

December 8 2019

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

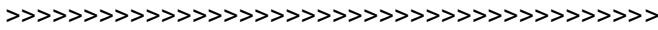
We extend a sincere welcome to everyone. If you are visiting with us, please let us get to know you after the service. Morning tea is served in the Hall.



Services Today and Readings ADVENT 2

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

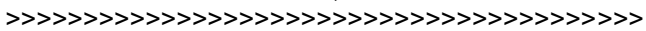
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalms 72:1-7,18-19,
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12



Services Next Week and Readings December 15

Montville	8.15am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Bob Philpot
	1.00pm	Tongan Service

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalms 146:-5-10, or Luke 1:46b-55,
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11



The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Monday December 9th

9.00am Christmas Tree Festival Meeting

Tuesday December 10th

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995
10.00am Cutting up Christmas Cakes

Wednesday December 11th

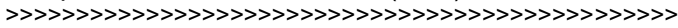
8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday December 12th

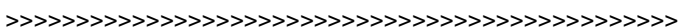
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday December 13th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486



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



I BELIEVE

The Advent wreath with the candles is remembered differently. Some have 4 Advent Sundays candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. My reflections this year follow the tradition of 4 Sundays of Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace and the centre candle, Love, being the Christ candle which is lit on Christmas Day. This 2nd Sunday then we reflect on faith. It is also known as the Bethlehem candle as we are called to reflect upon Mary and Joseph's faith as they travel up to Bethlehem and the birth of their child, Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

My reflection is around a well-known song: *I Believe* (by Mahalia Jackson)

I believe for every drop of rain that falls; A flower grows; I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, A candle glows;

I believe for everyone that goes astray; Someone will come to show the way, I believe, I believe, I believe above the storm the smallest prayer, Will still be heard,

I believe that someone in the great somewhere, Hears every word, Every time I hear a newborn baby cry, Or touch a leaf, Or see the sky, Then I know why,

I believe, Every time I hear a newborn baby cry, Or touch a leaf, Or see the sky, Then I know why, I believe (Why I believe)

Indeed, it is when we reflect upon the marvel of the birth of a baby that we are compelled to believe that there is greater Being, a divine being. Similarly, when we stop to pick up a fallen leaf or touch a new spring leaf, or see the wonders of the sky bright blue or sketched in colours of sunrises and sunsets we ourselves cannot create or recreate, we cannot but acknowledge and profess the presence and reality of a mighty Creator.

Yet it is also the birth of a baby, yet another baby that reminds of the population of the world, the neglect and abuse of babies. A dry leaf in spring reminds us of climate change. Smoke and dust in the sky reminds us of droughts and disasters. These experiences cast doubt on our faith, and some even lose their faith in light of the realities of our world today.

Advent reminds us that God revealed his heart through the birth of Jesus Christ. God's love for the world, creation and creatures is manifest in the coming of Jesus Christ. Truly the Saviour of our crazy amazing world: awesome, yet also awful. In this time of Advent, as we reflect upon Bethlehem, the birth of Christ and the faith of Joseph and Mary, may the Holy Spirit encourage us to indeed believe each time we hear a new born baby, cry, or touch a leaf or see the sky. Shalom Liena

Rev Linena Hoffmans

