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 15 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 ADVENT 3

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

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Services Next Week and Readings December 22

Montville	8.15am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Maleny	9.45am	Mr Peter Uhlmann
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Liena Hoffman (Combined Service)

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalms 80:1-7,17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday December 17th

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

Wednesday December 18th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday December 19th

2pm-8pm Christmas Tree Festival

Friday December 20th

2pm-8pm Christmas Tree Festival

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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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One World, Many Worlds

Psalm 146:5-10,Matthew 11:2-11

We talk about the world of cricket, of commerce, of science or the theatre; the art world, a child's world, the modern world, and so on. What worlds do you belong to? It is possible to belong to several worlds at the same time, although when in any one world it tends to take all of our attention, time and energy.

Each world has its own field of interest, its history and tradition, its own language and scale of values. So, we live our life shifting from one world to another: from school or work to home; from family to strangers; from the informality of friendship groups to officialdom – that sort of thing. We can usually make the necessary adjustments quite easily, but sometimes it is not easy.

Jesus came announcing that there is a fundamental world that, irrespective of what other worlds we live in, we should not neglect. He called it the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God. This world impinges on the way we participate in the other worlds. Sometimes it puts us in the middle of a clash between Christ's world and another world, but it makes claim to be our primary world. It is the world where animals and trees, oceans and continents, planets and galaxies, all exist as part of one great whole centred on the Creator. It is God's world, and Jesus presented it as the most valuable and important world of all.

To belong to Christ's world with its Scriptures and community, its emphasis on God's love being responded to with love to both God and neighbour, its emphasis on peace, justice, compassion, holiness and reverence, grace and forgiveness, is to belong to the greatest of all possible worlds, and even the greatest person who lives outside of it is not as great as the least who lives within it. This comes out in the words of Jesus spoken about John the Baptist, "The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- What worlds do you belong to?
- What difficulties have you encountered in switching from one world to another?
- How does Christ's world impinge on other worlds that you live in?
- Each world has its own scale of values. How does the idea of greatness differ in Christ's world from the idea of greatness in other worlds?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

ADVENT 3:
An Outback Christmas message with acknowledgment to Henry Lawson and his poem "Out Back"
"For time means tucker, and tramp you must where the scrubs and plains are wide,
With seldom a track that a man can trust, or a mountain peak to guide;
All day long in the dust and heat – when summer is on the track –
With stinted stomach and blistered feet, they carry their swags Out Back "
Come to me you who are heavy laden, you whose swags weigh heavy
I will give your rest.
Come to me you who tramp tracks unknown and unguided
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Come to me you who are sunbaked and fatigued
I will lead you beside still waters and pastures green.
Come to me you with stinted stomach
I am the Bread of Life and the bush-tucker I provide.
Come to me you with weary and blistered feet,
I will wash and balm them.
Come to me from the water-beds dry and cracked
I am the well from which living waters flow.
I am Immanuel: God with us.
"But, only God and the swagmen know how a poor man fares Out Back."

Montville Community Carols will be one the green Wednesday **18th December** from 5pm with carols starting at 7pm.

MONTVILLE MINISTRY TASK GROUP
Meeting after service **Sunday, 5 January**.

MALENY MINISTRY TASK GROUP NEXT MEETING
the Maleny Ministry Task Group replaces the former Maleny Congregational meeting. With this in mind, ALL members/attenders of the Maleny congregation can attend. The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 5 January,** after the 9:45am service. This meeting is scheduled so that items for discussion at the Church Council can be forwarded on for the Church Council Meeting to be held on **Monday 13 January**. Please note in your diaries, and make an effort to attend. This is your main opportunity to have input in our church's programs and priorities for 2020.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SINGERS

There will be a practice around the piano after church and after you have some morning tea.
Please come to the piano when you hear some music being played.

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.

PASTORAL CARE...FOODBANK..
Thank you to all those who so willingly and generously contributed meals to this needy area of our ministry...Our recipients are always very grateful for our care....Marnie 54999394

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.

THE CHILD
The theme for the new display in the Reflection Gallery in the Montville Uniting Church is The Child. As part of the Christmas display, a large manger (made by George Woodward) together with straw and child has been set up in the church. The walls carry paintings that depict children thus emphasising that the Christ Child was a child among the children of the world, truly one of us in his humanity.
These paintings have been contributed by Ron Potter, Barbara Willcocks, Dorothy Peall, Helen Sheriff and Lyndall Hulme. The display is open daily between the hours of **10am and 3pm and will remain in place until 31 January.**

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2020
Offering envelopes for 2020 are now available at Maleny, Montville and Palmwoods. We use the envelope system because it encourages regular giving and reminds us that the work of the Church continues when we are away. The envelopes are un-numbered – there is no pledging or monitoring. Online banking is a good alternative to using the envelopes. About 50% of the Maleny offerings now come by regular electronic bank transfers – weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Our banking is with ANZ Beerwah. Account name: Blackall Range Uniting Church, BSB No. 014-507, Account No. 3762 29735.

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.

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