



# 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 22 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

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 1:18-28

### Services Christmas Eve 24 December 2019

**Combined Service 7.00pm Rev Liena Hoffman**

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14,(15-20)

### Services Christmas Day 2019

Montville 7.30am Rev Ron Potter  
Maleny 8.30am Rev Liena Hoffman  
Palmwoods 9.00am Pastor Kay Nixon

Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7),8-20

### The Week Ahead

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

#### Today

2pm-8pm Maleny Christmas Tree Festival

#### Monday

2pm-8pm Maleny Christmas Tree Festival

#### Christmas Eve

2pm-7pm Maleny Christmas Tree Festival

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

## LETTER TO MATTHEW

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Dear Matthew,

I have just a few questions to ask you. You set out to tell us how the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place, but you say nothing about the manger or the shepherds. I know Mark skipped right over the topic, and John gave it a very different treatment, but Luke told us about those things. Why not you?

The other thing is, you trace Jesus' family tree back through Joseph, yet you say that Joseph was not his biological father. I can see that you were trying to emphasise that Jesus embodied God in a unique and thorough-going way. I get that. But if God used Mary to bring his Son, the Messiah, to birth, why not also Joseph?

Your story reminds me of the beginning of the Bible where it says that the Spirit of God moved over the invisible, formless nothing and spoke creation into existence. In saying that Jesus was conceived by the Spirit, were you trying to say that, through him, God brought a new creation into existence? Paul spoke about that.

I think I understand why you included the story about the wise men. You wanted it known that Jesus was the Messiah for all people, not just for Jewish people.

I hope you don't mind me asking these questions. Thank you for collecting the material about Jesus and putting it together so powerfully. You have given us a remarkable and wonderful picture of Jesus. Thank you.

Ron

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

**2019 WORDS**

Towards the end of the year dictionary-houses publish their word/phrase of the year:

*Merriam' Webster's* word of 2019 is "they/them" reflecting the way in which non-binary persons identify themselves. Neither male nor female. Choosing not to be defined by traditional gender terms. Interestingly, "they/them" can be binary and divisive too— especially in disputes when "they/them" are opposite to "we/us".

*Oxford's* phrase is "climate emergency", otherwise "climate anxiety" referring to the urgent calls to address climate change before the environment is irreversibly damaged.

*Dictionary.com's* word is "existential" summed up in the movie character Forky's words: "I'm trash" and illustrates people struggling with their existence their identity, their purpose and meaning in life. Persons wrestling with survival as humans.

These few words reflect the anxiety, stress and dilemma of twenty-first century humankind.

2019 is not only the end of a year. It is the end of a decade. At the time of writing I am not aware that the word for the past decade had been published. I shudder to think what it may be. The word for the previous decade ending 2009 was "unfriend".

Advent is a time when Christians commemorate and celebrate well-loved words and phrases: "Peace on earth; "To us a Saviour is born"; "Immanuel" ; "Prince of Peace"; "Joy"; "Hope"; "Faith" and "Love" to mention only a few.

Are we being heard? Are these words of faith part of the daily vocabulary of humankind?

What word would you give as a Christmas gift to our wonderful, yet wrestling world to enter the new year, the new decade with?

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*



**MALENY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

\* **Sunday 22 December**

Open 2 pm – 8.00pm

\* **Christmas Eve Mon 24**

Open 2 pm – 7.00pm,

followed by Christmas Eve Service

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR COMMONLIFE CHRISTMAS BREAK**

The next issue will be on **Sunday 12 January 2020**. If you have any notices in the meantime, please ask the Leader to make an announcement before the service

-----  
**Services New Year's Eve 29 December 2019 (Christmas 1)**

**Montville** 8.15am MMTG  
**Maleny** 9.45am Rev Liena Hoffman  
**Palmwoods** 5.00pm Rev Liena Hoffman  
1.00pm Tongan Service

**Readings December 29 2019**

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

\*\*\*\*\*

**Services January 5 2020 (Christmas 2)**

**Montville** 8.15am Rev Liena Hoffman  
**Maleny** 9.45am Rev Liena Hoffman HC  
**Palmwoods** 10.00am Paster Kay Nixon

**Readings January 5 2018**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9),10-18

1.00pm Tongan Service

\*\*\*\*\*

**Services January 12 2019 (Baptism of Jesus)**

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

**Readings January 12 2019**

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29

-----  
**Ministry Contacts:**

**Minister** Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874  
[hoffman.caritas@gmail.com](mailto:hoffman.caritas@gmail.com)

**Church Office:** Jing Wang 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm

Email: [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)

**Palmwoods** Pastor Kay Nixon  
kaynrxn43@gmail.com 0412539020  
Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538

**BRUC Chair:** Peter Callaghan 0458 263 322

**Internet:** <http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au/>

**Notice Sheet:** Contributions requested before 10am  
Wed: [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)



Maleny Uniting Church,  
Montville Uniting Church,  
Palmwoods Uniting Church