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

January 12 2020

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

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalms 29,

Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

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Services Next Week and Readings January 17

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

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalms 40:1-11,

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Monday January 13th

9.00am BRUC Council Meeting

Tuesday January 14th

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

Wednesday January 15th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday January 16th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

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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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Jesus as Representative

Acts 10:34-43,Matthew 3:13-17.

As Messiah, Jesus represented both God's reign and the people over which he exercises that reign. The story of the Old Testament is the story of God covenanting with Israel to be the people that accepted and lived by his rule. As such, Israel was sometimes called the Son of God. But Israel failed to live up to its side of the contract.

However, what God had not been able to do because of the unfaithfulness of his people, Jesus accomplished. He then is seen as the true Son of God. As Israel's calling to its task might be said to have begun with the escape from Egypt, especially the crossing of the Red Sea, and the giving of the Law to them at Mt Sinai – a sort of baptism with directions for living – so Jesus' ministry commenced with his baptism by John and his reception of the Holy Spirt or power for living. John the Baptist announced that God's great clean-up was imminent, and he called on his fellow citizens to repent, not only for their own sin, but for the failures of Israel as well.

In his close identification with the nation, indeed with all humanity, Jesus humbly submitted to this baptism. He set out on his way to being the Suffering Servant who accomplishes what other more imperialistic approaches fail to do. But then Jesus' followers, in the months or so following his death and resurrection, had to face the question, did everyone becoming a disciple of Jesus have to become an Israeli. No, Jesus has fulfilled what Israel was commissioned to do. God shows no partiality. What Jesus accomplished is for all people everywhere.

- On what occasions is Australia represented by a single individual or by a team?
- How does our knowledge of the Old Testament influence our reading of the New Testament?
- What is the difference between the Law being a guide to living and the Spirit being our guide? Can we have one without the other?
- What does it mean to see Jesus as both the representative of the nation Israel and representative of humanity?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

The period after Epiphany we reflect on the meaning of Christ's manifestation in our midst, and on the first Sunday we focus on the baptism of Christ and what it means to us. *The Basis of Union declares:*

"The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ incorporates people into his body by Baptism. In this way Christ enables them to participate in his own baptism, which was accomplished once on behalf of all in his death and burial, and which was made available to all when, risen and ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Baptism into Christ's body initiates people into Christ's life and mission in the world, so that they are united in *one fellow*ship of love, service, suffering and joy, *in one family* of the Father of all in heaven and earth, and in the power of the one Spirit.

These words emphasise a core characteristic of the sacrament of baptism, we are ONE! Being one does not mean we are identical or the same. Paul says there is no difference between Jew or Gentile, slave or free person, man or woman; and we may add, black or white, adult or child, gay or straight. This does not mean that being one means that black and white become grey, or man and woman become genderless, or heterosexual and homosexual become asexual. No it means we are one in fellowship, in union together in Christ, in union together with Christ and one another – one fellowship in one family of God. As Ephesians 4 vs 4-6 puts it: "There is one body, and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all humankind, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all."

The manifestation and expression of this unity in our baptism is through love. Therefore the repeated call to love one another. Shalom Liena

BRUC COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council Meeting to be held on **Monday 13 January at Palmwoods Church at 9 am**.

MALENY LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

You are invited to set aside the third Thursday of each month (Feb – Nov 2020) for the get together of our group. If you are willing to take responsibility for organising activities for one of the months, please let Nancy knows. A.S.A.P 0409 958 6601

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL "DEBRIEF"

A "debrief" meeting concerning the 2019 Christmas Tree Festival will be held on **Friday 7th February 9 am** at Maleny U.C. All feedback is welcome, and future activity will be discussed.

PRAYERS

Part of Our Common Life is to pray for one another, in joy and 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

REFLECTION GALLERY

The gallery in the Montville Church continues it's pre-Christmas display entitled The Child until the end of this month when Rev. Geraldine Wheeler will return with her collection of paintings depicting women of the Bible. Open 10 to 3.00 each day.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION MONTVILLE

Is there anyone who feels called to help with religious at Montville in 2020? Please contact Liena.

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.

CAN YOU HELP SOMEONE DOING IT TOUGH IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA?

The need in remote Australia—particularly around outback Queensland—is growing as Frontier Services receives more and more calls for support from those doing it tough in the bush. Can you lend a helping hand?

Frontier Services' Outback Links program has over 80 open volunteering opportunities where you can make a huge difference living out your faith in a practical way.

Please register your interest today and join the Outback Links volunteering team to be part of something remarkable. Barry Costello Volunteer Program Administrator, Frontier Services. https://frontierservices.org/how-we-help/outback-links/volunteer/ ---------Uniting News

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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:

Minister	Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874 minister@ourcommonlife.org.au
Church Office:	Jing Wang 5429 6995
Hours:	Tuesdays/Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm
Email:	admin@ourcommonlife.org.au
Palmwoods	Pastor Kay Nixon Kaynxn43@gmail.com 0412 539 020 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

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Palmwoods Uniting Church