



Our Common Life

Blackall Range Uniting Churches



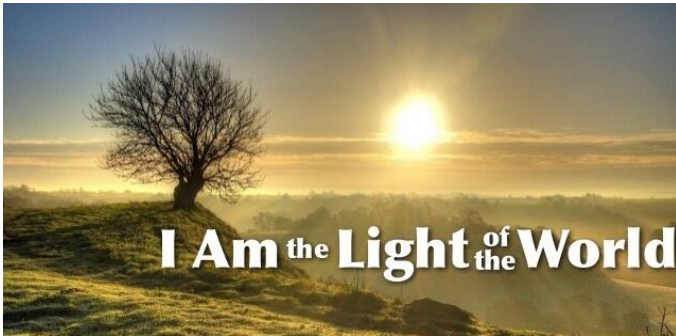
Maleny | Montville | Palmwoods

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

January 19 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
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev George Woodward
	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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Services Next Week and Readings January 26

Montville	8.15am	Rev Liena Hoffman
Maleny	9.45am	Rev Graham Dempster
Palmwoods	10.00am	Rev Liena Hoffman
	1.00pm	Tongan Service

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalms 27:1,4-9,
1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

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The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday January 21st

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

Wednesday January 22nd

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

Thursday January 23rd

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday January 24th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

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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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Chosen

Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42.

The doctrine of election is a difficult one. It has been the subject of much controversy. Yet the idea that God chose Israel to be God's special people is a basic understanding running through the Bible. God entered into covenant with Israel: I will be your God; you will be my people. However, what does it mean to be chosen by God?

We would like to think that it means being given power, prosperity and priority above all other people, ensuring that we are triumphant and victorious in all that we do. To be chosen by God must mean that God loves us more than others. Wait a bit! God is love, and to be chosen by God is to be chosen to be, not only recipients of the divine love, but an extension of that love. It means to be the servant of God who gives of himself in love for the world.

The Book of Isaiah introduces us to the image of Israel, the chosen people, being a suffering servant. Jesus took up this image and identified himself with it. As he represented Israel, he saw himself as God's servant giving of himself for the sake of the world. That's what love does. The above passage from Isaiah also indicates that the figure of the Suffering Servant is not only of one who sacrifices himself for the sake of Israel, he is given as a light to the nations that God's salvation 'may reach to the end of the earth'.

To be chosen by God is to be called to be servants of the Servant God. To be chosen is to live for others and not just for ourselves.

- If you had to choose someone to build you a piece of furniture, what would you look for in making your choice?
- Why is God called a Servant God?
- How can we be an extension of God's love?
- What does it mean to call Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29)?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

