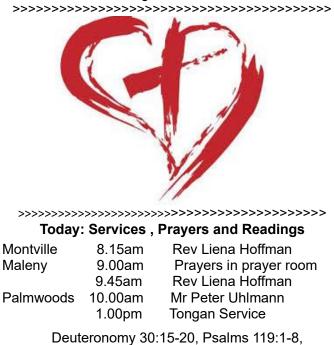


# February 16 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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.



1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Matthew 5:21-37 

# Next Sunday: Services, Prayers and Readings

9.00am Prayers in prayer room Maleny

COMBINED SERVICE SUNDAY AT MALENY 9:45AM

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalms 2 or Psalms 99,

2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9 

# The Week Ahead

Open Daily: Reflection Gallery Montville (see over)

Tuesday February 18th

7.00am Prayers at Moyra's 5494 2661

# Wednesday February 19th

8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152

#### Thursday February 20th

Church Office open 5429 6995 9am-3pm Maleny Ladies Friendship 9.30am Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>

Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486 1.30pm

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

# Law and Spirit

# Matthew 5:21-37

To get on with another person one needs to know what is acceptable and what is unacceptable with that person. In other words, there are rules about how to behave. There are rules, sometimes explicitly spelt out but more often simply implied, in every relationship and in belonging to any group, society or community.

Basic to the Old Testament is the idea that God gave Israel the rules by which to live. This was the Torah or Law. But behind every law lies an intention or reason. Respect for the law properly requires that people do more than simply keep the letter of the law, they keep the spirit that lies behind it. This is what Jesus emphasized. He called people to go beyond just keeping the letter of the Torah; he emphasized living in the spirit that underlay the Law.

In Matthew 5, Jesus applied this to laws about murder, anger, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation and love of neighbour. When we internalize the spirit behind the law, we keep it, not because it is imposed from outside but because we want to do it. When we are separated from God, the divine law remains external to us, and we are likely to twist it to suit our convenience. However, when that separation is overcome and God, the Holv Spirit, dwells within, we seek to live by the spirit of God's rules.

We want to live the life of love to God and to our fellow human beings that is at the heart of it all. When we fail, we admit our error, realize that God's love and forgiveness still surrounds us and seek to be more responsive to the divine Spirit that is within.

- What are some of the unwritten rules about conduct in polite society?
- What did Jesus have to say about the spirit that underlies the commandment in Exodus 20:13. "You shall not murder"?
- What did Jesus say about God's intention in giving laws about adultery and divorce?
- Try expressing Matthew 5:33-48 in your own words, giving voice to the intention that underlay them.

#### **Rev Ron Potter**

**Piula Publications** 

# TO WALK THE WAY OF GOD WITH THE HOLY TRINITY

Sometimes I think we have become complacent about the law of God, the way of God. We pat ourselves by thinking we do not commit murder or steal, indeed we do not even assault others or cheat. Yet Christ's Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-6 is urgent, radical and forceful. Christ declares that he has not come to abolish the laws (Mt 5:17) but to fulfill them. Christ then proceeds to reinterpret the laws declaring: that to be angry with some is contravening the law not to kill, looking at another person lustfully is adulterous. Drastic measures are mentioned to prevent the breaking of the law: gouging out eyes and cutting off hands. We are reminded that the narrow road, is not a way of legalistic laws, of logic and reason; but a way of the mind, heart and soul, of our whole being (Mt 23:37-40). It is a way of justice mercy and faithfulness (Mt 24:23)

We are warned that the way of the kingdom God, the way of life is narrow and the gate small and only a few find it and travel along the narrow way (Mt 7:13-14). Yet God does not leave us in the dark, desolated and in despair, desperate to know how to find the gate and follow the road. On the contrary, Christ invites us to come to Him (Mt 11:28-30) for he is gentle and humble in heart. Christ promises us forgiveness, redemption and provision (Mt 6:14). The narrow road is not a road of retribution, but a road of restoration, of recuperation and rest.

Moreover, Christ assures us that He is Immanuel, with us every moment, always, to the very end of the age. The Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit will companion us along the narrow road. But Christ also commands us to go to all nations and teach all to obey them everything he has commanded (Mt 28:18-20). Shalom Liena

# TODAY-YOUNG FAMILIES MEETING

The young families group will have their first meeting on **today at 4:30** at Bob & June Eather's place. 33 Mary Cairncross Avenue. Maleny Qld 4552. Contact Bob: 0427 286101

#### MALENY LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP – 9.30am Thursday 20 Feb 2020

All ladies are welcome to attend Start the year well with a cuppa & chat and a few surprises.

Thanks to those who have taken responsibility for " a month". There are still gaps waiting for volunteers. Thanks in anticipation. Nancy 0409 586 601

# COMBINED SERVICE SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY



Combined Service with all three churches. It will be held at Maleny on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 9:45am** to launch the Lenten Bible study.

# MONTVILLE

Lenten Study commences **4.15 pm Wednesday**, **26 February**, in the church hall.

World Day of Prayer Service in our church at **9.30**, **Friday**, **6 March.** Reflection Gallery displays paintings by Rev. Geraldine Wheeler, theme: Women of the Bible. Each day from 10 till 3.

# QUIET DAY

On Ash Wednesday, 26th February, Bruce and Heather Johnson are leading a Quiet Day at their home, 19 Attunga Court, WItta from 9.00am to 4.00pm. This will be a time of Reflection and Prayer that will help participants enter into the 40 days of Lent. The theme of the day will be "Rest, Restore and Re-Create". There will some group input, but mostly significant periods of silence and personal reflection. Everything, including food and drink will be provided so all you need to bring will be your Bible. It will cost \$50 to cover costs of food and resources. If you want to attend or get further information contact

Bruce or Heather on 0407 180 864 or email <u>b\_hjohnson@me.com</u>.

#### **ROSTER – PLEASE FILL IN TODAY.**

Today is the last Sunday for you to let us know how you wish to contribute to the life of our church family here in Maleny for March, April and May, so **PLEASE FILL IN YOUR DATES TODAY**. The Roster will have to be out by next Sunday. I had not realised that the end of February was coming around so quickly, so apologies from me. Thank You Everyone. *Merilyn Milton* 

# LENTEN STUDY

A new study guide for Lent, called "Pauses for Lent", is now available for \$5 a copy. It provides a different message for each of the forty days of Lent and can be used on a daily basis, and with your Connect Groups on, say, a weekly basis.

CONNECT GROUPS The new Lenten study is a great reason for the Connect Groups in recess to get together. If you are from the Maleny Church and would like to be in a Connect Group, let Stuart or Jan Craig know and they will assist. They are looking to create some new groups. For those new to the Church, a Connect Group is the name we give to a small group that meets periodically for Christian discussion. The Group may or may not have a leader, and also forms an important part of pastoral care activities in the Church.

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

#### Ministry Contacts:

Minister	Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874 minister@ourcommonlife.org.au
Church Office: Jing Wang 5429 6995	
Hours:	Tuesday 9 am to 12 noon
	Thursday 9 am to 12 noon
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: <u>admin@ourcommonlife.org.au</u>
	Maleny Uniting Church.



Maleny Uniting Church, Montville Uniting Church, Palmwoods Uniting Church