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

April 19 2020+

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are continuing to publish our weekly Notices.
Please stay connected with us.

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Eastertide Services: Services, Prayers and Readings

Catch up on our E-Services under E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page: www.ourcommonlife.org.au.

This week's readings:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

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Next Sunday 26th April: Prayers and Readings

Acts 2:1-4a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

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The Week Ahead

Wednesday Meditation has been cancelled due to public safety regulations.

Thursday April 23rd
9am-12pm 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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WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, John 20:19-31

A witness speaks out of personal experience, not hearsay. A witness testifies not only by words, but by body language and by actions as well. Without the appropriate demeanor, words fall flat. They sound hollow.

Since Christians are called to be witnesses of Christ's resurrection, how can we be effective witnesses? It's not enough to relay what others have told us or to simply repeat church doctrine. It's not a matter of theological or biblical knowledge. It has to come out of our own personal experience. But we haven't had the visual experience that Christ's followers had in the period soon after his death. However, that does not mean that we have not had an experience of Christ – alive, impacting our lives, challenging us, leading us and encouraging us.

How has Christ impacted your life? Called you to a conscious and deliberate commitment to live under his authority, influenced the direction your life has taken, involved you in service for God and for other people, expanded your vision to give you a bigger view of life than once you had, healed you, released you from a heavy burden? Let's not keep such experiences to ourselves.

Here is something to share from the heart with anyone willing to listen. But remember, we witness to the resurrection not only by what we say, but by the way we live, the attitudes we exhibit, the way we relate to others. Let's live the resurrection, not just believe in it. Let's be the Easter people, not just those who celebrate it, even if, at this time we celebrate it in isolation.

- How has Christ impacted your life?
- How can we be effective witnesses to Christ's resurrection?
- If our witness is not just repeating church teaching or quoting biblical passages, what is the relationship between doctrine and witness?
- How do Easter people live?

Rev Ron Potter **Piula Publications**

Pruning

"*The father breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and He prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit*." (John 15:2).

It is pruning time. Speak to neighbours and friends and most persons are using this stay-home-time to prune their trees, shrubs and vines. Cutting out dead branches, cleaning up unwanted branches, trimming back the good branches, opening up space for sun and new growth, better growth. And that is why we prune, so the tree or vine can grow better, bear more fruit. This is the helpful image used by Jesus in John 15 when he says He is the true vine and we can only bear more fruit if we remain in Him. Perhaps, we should use this stay-home-time to reflect, to enter into conversation with our Father, the Gardener, to identify what branches need pruning, cutting back, cutting out. We tend to be self-centred, self-concerned, self-righteous. Perhaps our priorities regarding our monies and retirement plans are self-centred and not God-centred and need pruning; or perhaps our values have been skewed by the values of the modern world of entitlement and need trimming; or perhaps our relationships have been overly influenced by self-concern, and not Divine forgiveness and need opening up.

If you are like me, new to Maleny hesitant to prune, wondering what to cut and what to leave – we have the assurance that it is God, our Father, Himself who is the Gardner and does the pruning to enable us to grow more fruit. Moreover, Jesus says we are to remain in Him, to remain in His love, and this will ensure a harvest of much fruit, enduring fruit and so God will be glorified. (see also *Day 38 of Trevor Hudson's Pause for Lent).* Shalom Liena.

REMEMBER OUR 7 C's

Calm – be calm.

Cautious – be cautious.

Common sense – use your common sense.

Care – take care of yourselves and others.

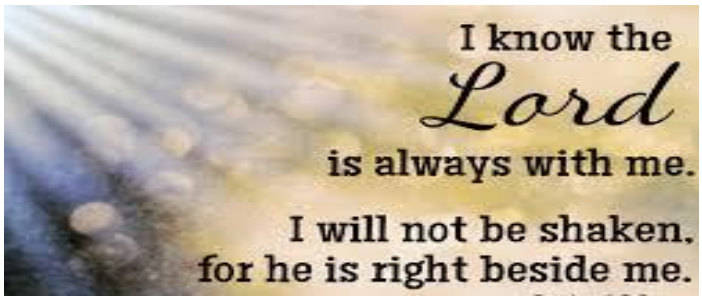
Commit – commit the COVID-19 pandemic to prayer.

Candle – Light the COVID-19 prayer-candle at 7pm (19:00) in your window every night as a symbol of hope.

Connect – remember to connect with one another.

SURFING THE BRUC WEB and FB pages

We remind you to get surf-fit. To acquire the habit of surfing our web-page (www.ourcommonlife.org.au) and to use the resources that are there. Also to keep in contact and join the conversations on our **FaceBook** pages (Blackall Range, Maleny, Montville & Palmwoods).



AMRITSAR DIOCESE, CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA URGENT APPEAL

The Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India has issued an urgent appeal for support to feed the many people in the diocese without income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Diocese has a sister relationship with the Queensland Synod through the Dostana group, which has organised support and friendship visits.

If you would like to support our sister church, please make a direct deposit by 15 April to:

UCA Qld Synod general account ANZ
BSB: 013 128
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 835 616 145,
Reference Dostana.

These contributions are not tax deductible. For more information, read the appeal letter(attached) from Bishop Bunu.

REFLECTION GALLERY

Although the doors of the Montville Church are now closed due to the current pandemic, the Reflection Gallery still offers you the opportunity to look at and reflect on some paintings. Simply put facebook.com/UCMontville into your computer's search engine. Take time to read the accompanying text and let God speak through both word and image. Ron Potter

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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:

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BRUC Chair: Peter Callaghan 0458 263 322

Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au/

Notice Sheet: Contributions requested before 10am Wed: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

Maleny Uniting Church,
Montville Uniting Church,
Palmwoods Uniting Church