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

July 05 2020+

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

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Services: Service, Prayers and Readings

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

This Sunday 5th July (Holy Communion)
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Songs of Solomon 2:8-13;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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Next Sunday 12th July
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

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The Week Ahead

This Sunday 5th July (Holy Communion)
There will be an e-service and we will be meeting to share Holy Communion as follows:
10:00 am Maleny UC
14:00pm Palmwoods UC
15:30pm Montville UC.

Wednesday Meditation at 8:30 am is now running again subject to the public safety regulations.

Tuesday July 7th
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday July 8th – Cuppa Conversation
Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations

Thursday July 9th
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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The Good Shepherd

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Christ's invitation is an echo of Psalm 23 and a fulfilment of the prophecy in Ezekiel 34:

11 "'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. … 15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

A prayer by St. Augustine

https://emilyhylden.com/2015/01/05/quotation-of-the-day-a-prayer-by-st-augustine/

God of our life,
there are days when the burdens we carry
chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;
when the road seems jury and endless,
the skies grey and threatening;
when our lives have no music in them,
and our hearts are lonely,
and our souls have lost their courage.

Flood the path with light,
run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise;
tune our hearts to brave music;
give us the sense of comradeship
with heroes and saints of every age;
and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life,
to your honour and glory.

REFLECTION GALLERY

The Cross is central to our Gospel. The new display in the Montville Church by Laura McDade, entitled *Cross Closeups*, presents photographic images featuring the cross. Open each day 10 till 3. A place for quiet prayer and reflection.

Why Look Elsewhere?

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

What happened? In the part of the world where Christianity has been most widely accepted, people are searching here, there and everywhere for gurus, teachers, leaders and saviours, yet they do not recognize the one who has been acknowledged among them for centuries.

They take on other yokes; some are spiritual, some philosophical, some political; some are brash, others are low-keyed; some are strange, some are familiar; some are ancient, others novel. To take someone's yoke is to live under that person's influence, their ideas and attitudes. In the time of Jesus, to live under the tutelage of a rabbi was to live under that rabbi's yoke.

Jesus contrasted his yoke with that of others of his time. Compared with them, his yoke was easy, for central to his teaching was the offer of grace, acceptance and forgiveness. God is reaching out to us; we do not have to climb the dizzy heights of religious and moral rectitude to get to God. Jesus has opened up the way to live an authentic human life, and through his Spirit is walking beside us as a friend to help us. All it calls for is humble trust, and that's the obstacle.

We humans like to be in control. We would rather have the satisfaction of reaching our own goals instead of seeking God's goals. We would rather get to God through learning or through attaining some esoteric knowledge revealed only to a privileged few than to live by faith in the One whose life was so inextricably linked with the life of the Father that to know one is to know the other.

- Who are some of the gurus, teachers, leaders, saviours that people are turning to today?
- How can the one who said, "Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me" say that his yoke is easy?
- How do people make the life of faith a burden? Why do they do it?
- When is it easy to trust God and when is it difficult?

Rev Ron Potter ***Piula Publications***

COVID STAGE 3 REOPENING

We are in the process of considering the ways in which fellowship groups can be re-established under Stage 3. Meanwhile

- ❖ Holy Communion gathering (up to 75 at Maleny; 30 at Montville & Palmwoods Church buildings respectively) on the first Sunday of the month
- ❖ Small Groups in a home (up to 20 visitors + household)
- ❖ Pastoral visiting, Visiting one and other within QLD
- ❖ Funerals (up to 100 mourners) plus 2 officiates, Weddings (up to 100 people) plus the couple and the celebrant, subject to the capacity of the building
- ❖ Re-establish Hall hire for groups up to the capacity of the building.
- ❖ Visitors register to be completed and destroyed after 54 days.
- ❖ Safety and hygiene protocols to be followed

POST-COVID BRUC QUESTIONNAIRE

We have been pondering what we would look like as a church once the COVID pandemic is over. Liena and others have, over the past few months, invited you to ponder this issue. It is also the primary topic addressed in the latest ***New Vine***. We have discovered there are more ways of being church and doing church. And it may not necessarily mean that we simply go back to the "old". Rev Bruce Johnson has profoundly remarked that we profess the resurrection and not merely resuscitation, and invited us to consider what this means to us as BRUC.

A small group, at the initiation of Liena and with the knowledge of Council, under the chair of Rev Bruce Johnson, is exploring this further. It is not a closed group and we would like to hear as many voices as possible, and should you like to join the group please contact Bruce on b_hjohnson@me.com or on 0407180864. This group will report back to the Church Council to consider the deliberations further.

Together with the latest *New Vine* is a voluntary questionnaire with only 5 questions. Please take the time to respond and complete the questionnaire. It is attached to this *Our Common Life* and is also available on line:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F27RSYD.
If you have filled in a hard copy please drop it off at the church office. The responses will be considered by the small group. It will be appreciated to have your responses soonest.

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OFFERINGS Kindly remember to continue to give make your weekly/monthly offerings. They 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
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Church Office: Jing Wang 5429 6995
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Notice Sheet: Contributions requested before 10 am Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au

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