

# 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

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

### July 12 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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



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 12<sup>th</sup> July Prayers and Readings

# Next Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>July Prayers and Readings

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12,23-24 Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

#### The Week Ahead

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

### Tuesday July 14th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> – Cuppa Conversation
Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on

www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa
Conversations

#### Thursday July 16th

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

#### Friday July 17th

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

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

Sermo Dei venit mutaturus: The Word of God has come to change

**The Word of God is revolutionary:** God's Word comes to change – us and the world.

**Parable of the Sower:** Shows how the Word of God is received

- (i) Seed on the path which is devoured by the birds;
- (ii) Seed amongst the rocks, which grows quickly, but withers in the sun because no roots;
- (iii) Seed amongst the thorns which is smothered'
- (iv) Seed in good soil which grows and bears bountiful fruit.

Why does the Word not seem to bring change? Perhaps because we feel it is not necessary to truly change; or we believe it need only be cosmetic and not fundamental change; or because we think it is not possible to change.

**Indicative:** Baptised in Christ's death and resurrection we now live under/in the Spirit and the Spirit lives in us. We are free of sin, new, live to God, controlled by the Spirit which brings life and peace. This means the world of sin is dead to us.

**Imperative:** we now need to live the life in the Spirit. Change. Redirect our minds. Offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God.

**Tension between indicative and Imperative**. The Christian life is becoming what we already are – renewed and liberated in Christ. This is sanctification. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give us life – astounding! Therefore the exhortation – let the Holy Spirit change us!

Sermo Dei venit mutaturus: The Word of God has come to change —Isaiah 55:10-11:

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

### The Life of Faith

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In spite of all the corruption, violence and oppression in the world, God reigns. It is God's world by creation and by redemption. That theme runs through the Scriptures and has been carried by the Church over the centuries, but no matter how often it is announced, many people just don't get it. They prefer their own desires over the will of God.

This is what Paul called having the mind set on the flesh. Among those who do get it there are those who get enthusiastic about it for a while but then let it fade away, and there are those who accept it but allow themselves to be overwhelmed by other interests and concerns so that the good news is forgotten and the old ways of the world creep back in. However, there are those who accept it and let God's reign extend over their lives, some more than others, but in their lives, they show God's reign by the way they live.

They display that love for God and love for neighbour that Jesus said summarized the whole will of God. They allow the Spirit of God to guide and to motivate. They are new creatures made alive by the Spirit. Then we are called to live by these convictions: this is God's world and life is to be lived God's way; the Spirit of Christ is within us seeking to shape and to guide us. This is the life of faith that we are called to: living under God's reign in spite of all that is going on in the world, allowing the Spirit of Christ to shape and guide us rather than the social influences that impinge upon us.

- What does it mean to say that God reigns when many things happen that are clearly not of God?
- Give examples of human desires being on conflict with the will and purpose of God.
- What sort of things are most likely to crowd the will of God out of our lives?
- What are the most important features of a life lived with faith in God's reign?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publicat

#### 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.

#### LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>July 9.30-11.30am at Maleny UC "**Show and/or Tell**". Let's delight in being together – even as we observe appropriate distancing and precautions. Let's share SOME THING that has been of comfort / inspiration this year. Maybe not your lounge chair, but a cross, card, photo, plant etc etc.

#### 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 time to respond and complete questionnaire. It is attached to this Our Common Life and is also available on line: https://www.surveymonkev.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.

Reopen Plan 4\_Location aligned to the approved industry plan for Worship Centres and Health Advice for Vulnerable People

More details please see the attachments.

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#### **Ministry Contacts:**

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

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



Maleny Uniting Church, Montville Uniting Church, Palmwoods Uniting Church