

# 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 19 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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



Services: Service, Prayers and Readings

Prayer meeting at Maleny at 9:00am at the church

Catch up on our E-Services under E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page: <a href="https://www.ourcommonlife.org.au">www.ourcommonlife.org.au</a>

### This 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

### Next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>July Prayers and Readings

#### The Week Ahead

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

#### Tuesday July 21st

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Cuppa Conversation
Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on

www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa
Conversations

#### Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>

9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

#### Friday July 24th

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.

## Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 We sigh because we have hope

In Romans 8, sighing is an active verb:

- 1) the whole of creation sighs, nature, all creatures including humankind;
- 2) believers sigh, because we have hope, are heirs to the God's inheritance, and because we know that things are not as they should be, and could be;
- 3) astoundingly the Holy Spirit sighs, because we do not know how in need we are of redemption

#### **Prayer by Oscar Romero**

(bishop of San Salvador, murdered in 1980, after speaking out against violence and injustice – loosely translated)

O Lord.

We live in a world
Where every minute one million dollars
is spent on military expenses;
Where your gifts to the world are wasted
Because we divide the worlds so that we can rule.
But, because we believe in your mercy,
we plead: O God, have mercy.

We live in a world
Where half of the world's population
does not have clean drinking water.
O God, we are not fulfilling
the creation task that you gave us
Therefore we pray: Christ, have mercy

We live in a world, O Lord.

Where land and wealth is so unjustly divided
That thousands of peoples in the wealthier parts
Are so indulged that they are constantly on diet,
whilst hundreds of millions of persons
Are hopelessly underfed.
Therefore we pray: O Holy Spirit, have mercy.

Lord. Our Triune God
Forgive us our sins,
Temper our selfishness,
So that we can think more creatively
To share and use, on a more equal basis,
the gifts that you have given your children
So that the whole creation
Will want to share in the song of praise
we now bring you. Amen.

### The Enemy

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

If you put petrol in a diesel engine, don't blame the manufacturer for your monstrous repair bill. It was never meant to run on petrol. So, if human life was meant to run on love (respect, compassion, cooperation, mercy and commitment) don't blame God if you run into strife trying to live selfishly. Life running on love was always God's intention and through Christ he opened this up in what he called the kingdom of God. But God has an enemy. The figure of the devil has been lampooned so often that it is hard to take it seriously, but no one can read the Bible without meeting up with the idea that God has an enemy. Personal experience and observation back this up. By whatever name, there is one who sows weeds among the wheat. There is a destructive power pitted against the Creator. Not to be identified with any particular group, or nation, there is a rebellious spirit in the human heart that opposes God's intended way of life. Now those who, by faith, belong to God's realm live side-by-side with those who are acting as agents of the enemy. Wheat and weeds grow together within our own hearts and lives. Ultimately though, there comes a day of reckoning whether that's a day on the calendar or a figurative expression. The world was made to run God's way, mess it up and face the consequences or respond to the opportunity opened up by Jesus and live intimately with God, redeemed, forgiven and empowered by God's own Spirit. Live each day in anticipation of living in a transformed creation characterized by peace, justice, goodness, love and joy, and, although it means struggle and strife, seek, by the Spirit, to live that way every day.

- What forces do you see in the world today that are opposed to the way of life that God wants for us?
- Why is it important that we do not identify Satan with any particular person, group or nation?
- How important do you think the theme of God's judgment is for the Christian faith?
- How important for your faith is the theme of future glory as expressed in Romans 8:18-25?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publicat

#### NO CARD, NO START

In the past, paid employees have been allowed to start working with children while their blue card application was being processed. The new laws mean that, from **31 August 2020**, paid workers must have a blue card (not a pending application) **before** they can work with children.

Volunteers, trainee students and people operating a business are already subject to No Card, No Start laws.

If your organisation employs blue card holders, this means that you will be prohibited from employing a person in child-related work unless:

- the person holds a valid blue card and
- You have linked the person's blue card to your organisation.

#### **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.

#### **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.

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.

#### **Ministry Contacts**:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

Church Office: Jing Wang 5429 6995
Hours: 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 10 am

Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au



Maleny Uniting Church, Montville Uniting Church, Palmwoods Uniting Church