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 26 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

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

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

This Sunday 26th July
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11,45b or Ps 128
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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Next Sunday 2nd August
Prayers and Readings
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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The Week Ahead

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

Monday July 27th
1.30-4pm The Kidz Biz (Maleny UC)

Tuesday July 28th
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday July 29th – Cuppa Conversation Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations
8.30am Christian Meditation 5435 8152 (Maleny UC)

Thursday July 30th
9am-3pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday July 31st
1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

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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 kingdom of heaven

The kingdom of heaven is an important concept in Matthew. It is how our world should be under God's reign and our service and lives as disciples of Jesus and members of the kingdom.

The *kingdom is near* (Matt 4:17) and the opening words of Jesus' ministry is: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near". This was the same as John the Baptist's (Matt 3:1-2), and what we need to preach (Matt 10:7). Note too the need to be *alert and wary* for the coming of the kingdom (Matt 24:45-25:13).

The *kingdom has come* (Matt:13:31-33) Jesus incarnation is a manner of the manifestation of the kingdom of heaven on earth, amongst us. The kingdom has come – it may only be as small as a mustard seed or yeast in dough – but the seed has been planted and is growing, the yeast has been mixed into the world and is spreading.

We need to pray: "*Let your kingdom come*" (Matt 6:10) This prayer is critical, constant and core to how prayers and lives as disciples. The kingdom asks a total commitment from believers (Matt 13:44-46) and we need to *seek first the kingdom of God* and his righteousness (Matt 6:33).

So the kingdom of God *is near, it is here* and *it is coming.* This is the dynamic nature of the kingdom of heaven and God's reign. It illustrates the tension between the "already" and the "not yet", but not diminishing the truth that the kingdom of heaven is real and has come, and continues to come and that God reigns.

The *nature of the kingdom* is diverse and complex. This is evident in not only the parables about the kingdom in Matthew 13, but throughout the Gospel of Matthew. At times the kingdom includes believers and non-believers (Matt 13:38). The church does not own the kingdom, but are the *caretakers and stewards* of it (Matt 21:43) and *witnesses* of it (Matt 10:7-15) and who embody it in word and deed (Matt 13:8, 23).

That is why we pray: *Let thy kingdom come* - in our personal lives, in the church in the world.

Life of Joy

Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

If one of our main tasks as a church is to make disciples, I suggest that one of the effective means by which God does this is by the joy evident in the lives of Christ's people. Paul listed joy as one of the fruits of the Spirit.

The call to rejoice comes through the New Testament something like seventy times. From John 15:11 we hear Christ's desire for his joy to be in us and for that joy to be complete, and in Matthew 13:44 we hear Jesus say that the joy of living each day within God's realm is worth getting rid of everything else to have it.

Do we come across as a particularly joyous people or do we cling to our grumbles and grouches? Are we too preoccupied with declining numbers to see where God is creating, healing, challenging, renewing lives today? Are we immobilized by fear of what people might say, by fear of failure, by fear of rejection, by fear of change? Are we overwhelmed by what we call the state of the world, news items telling of terrible things going on in the world? Have we simply adopted a defeatist attitude?

People everywhere are seeking happiness for themselves and their children: "I just want him/her to be happy". In Christ, by God's Spirit, there is a joy that goes beyond superficial happiness: joy in the very depths of our souls. Have we experienced, amid all the pleasures of life, this depth of joy: the joy that remains whatever our circumstances, the joy that goes beyond youthful exuberance, the joy that is linked to assurance, contentment and peace with God? A joy that is not dependent upon success?

Let's pray for true joy to be evident in our congregational life and in our own individual lives.

- What are some of the ways people try to get happiness for themselves and their loved ones?
- How is it that joy in Christ and sorrow at the state of the world can both be part of a Christian's life?
- Are we too staid and inhibited in our churches to let the joy of Christ shine through?
- How does joy manifest itself in the life of a Christian?

Rev Ron Potter ***Piula Publicat***

RENEW YOUR BLUE CARD

Volunteers, people operating a business are already subject to **No Card, No Start** form **31 August 2020**.

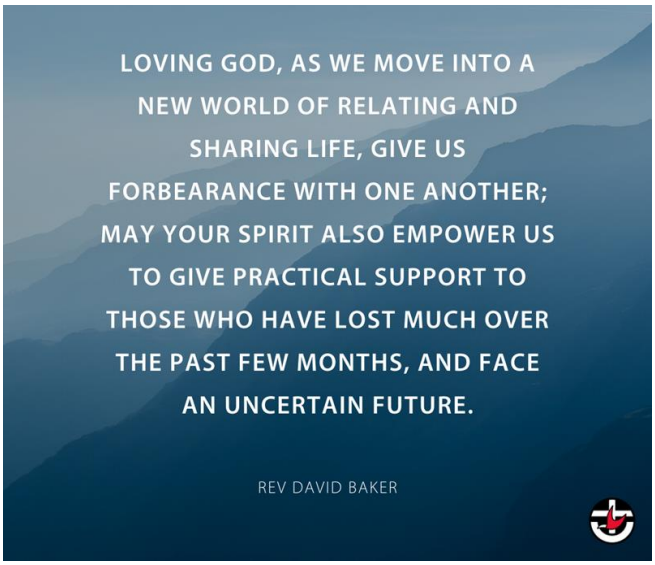
This form is for paid workers, volunteers and students who need to apply for a blue card.(see below link)

You may notice that **the expiry date** on our current forms is 31 March 2020.

Don't worry, you can continue using these forms until we tell you otherwise. We will give you plenty of notice when a new form is available.

You can download as below the website or you can ask a copy from the church office.

https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/blue-card-and-exemption-card-application-forms/resource/f240192f-2bc6-4b54-9ba1-258ec303c530



Trinity Unplugged: What is the Spirit saying to the church?

On 23 July 2020, hear three talks in response to the question: What is the Spirit saying to the church? The event will start at 7pm on Trinity College Queensland's Facebook page with the talks, just 15 minutes each:

• The revelation of COVID-19 with Rev Mark Cornford, Presbytery Minister, Moreton Rivers Presbytery.
• If only I'd known! with Simon Gomersall, Lecturer in Historical and Contemporary Mission.
• Zooming ourselves to death: Digital saturation in an age of physical separation with Dr John Frederick, Lecturer in New Testament and Greek.

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.

Liena will be away on leave from Thursday the 30th to Saturday 1 August.

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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:

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

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