

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

September 20 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Our Common Life is our weekly Notices
Please stay connected with us.

Services: Service, Prayers and Readings



Montville: 8:15am Worship Service
Maleny: 9:45 am Worship Service
Maleny 3:30-5:00pm Family Fellowship (all welcome)
Palmwoods: 10 am Holy Communion

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 20thSeptember Prayers and Readings

RCL: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45 Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Next Sunday 27thSeptember Prayers and Readings

The Week Ahead

Tuesday September 22nd

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Wednesday Meditation at 9:00 am is now running subject to the public safety regulations.

Wednesday Cuppa Conversation Join us for our Cuppa Conversation on www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations

Thursday September 24th

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday September 25th

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.

Harvest Festival: The Outback/Wilderness

Joel 1 vs 1-29; Mark 1 vs 1-13

"... and the angels were ministering to Him"

Wilderness /Desert is a symbol of trial and temptation. A symbol of suffering. It may a natural disaster like the devastating locust plague in Joel, or a drought or a global pandemic like COVID-19.

Call to repentance/ to lament. To turn to God. To cry out to God. To Mourn. All are called: sinners, priests, caring farmers, the earth itself, domestic animals, and we read even the wild animals. **Jesus baptism** is significant.

Baptism of repentance. Significant that Jesus subjected himself to a baptism of repentance for sinners. This was his first public act – an act in prophetic solidarity with humankind, with sinners. It was a moment of humiliation, and also of glorification. The "Son of God" subjected himself to the sinner's repentance baptism, whilst God - the Father and the Holy Spirt affirmed and glorified his subjection. In his baptism Christ accepted his calling as Saviour – accepted the cross of Golgotha.

Response: God's response is profound. Eschatological. Apolyptic. Trinitarian. The heavens are torn open. Never to be closed again.

Jesus in wilderness. Jesus is driven into the wilderness and tempted and suffers.

Angels attend him. The angels minister to him the word *dia-konos* – literally means to "kick up dust" ie actively take care of, serve, minister to.

Our comfort; our encouragement. The angels will minister us in our wilderness experiences. For the heavens were torn open with Jesus stooping down in solidarity to us, never to close again. And the Word teaches us that others are angels to us, like we are angels to others.

Shalom Liena

Thanks For the Gift

Matthew 20:1-16

It's great to be given a gift, isn't it? Or is it? What if it's a puppy and you're not ready for the food and vet bills, the exercising and training that goes with owning a dog? And the receiver is placed under obligation to the giver, for example: you receive a gift and then feel the need to reciprocate in some way. We know that there is no such thing as a free lunch. There's an uneven power balance between giver and receiver. The choice lies with the giver. Even if hints are given, the receiver has to accept what someone else has chosen.

Maybe that is why people have trouble with the grace of God. They have to accept that they are not in charge; they have to accept whatever they are given. They are under obligation to use the gift of life, and all other gifts, properly. If salvation is by grace, then it is not to be looked upon as a reward for services rendered.

In the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, Jesus made it clear that life at its best, life lived in the love and grace of God, is a gift. Heaven is not a reward for services rendered; it is a gift. People who approach it in terms of wages will be disappointed. Instead of trying to win heaven as a reward in the future, let's live the life of heaven now, as far as it is possible, with gratitude and joy. Enjoy the gift of life; enjoy the gift of new life in Christ.

- Think of examples of the power imbalance between giver and receiver. When has receiving a gift placed you under an obligation to the giver?
- List some of the gifts have you received from God.
- If salvation is a gift, why do people think that they have to earn it?
- How can we best show our appreciation for God's gift of new life in Christ?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

THE NEW VINE

The Spring Edition of The New Vine is ready for harvest. So make sure to get your copy – hard or soft copy. Thank you to Graham and his team for getting it ready for picking!

HARVEST FESTIVAL: GATHERING OF THE HARVEST 4 OCTOBER 2020

On this day we want to bring our personal harvest – garden produce (flowers, veges, fruit); preservatives (jams, curried beans); needlework (knitted, crocheted, sewn); crafts (woodwork, painting. photography). So please start gathering.

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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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

For those wanting to get involved in the updated COVID-safe version of the Christmas Tree Festival please contact the Craigs (5494 2990) or the Bakers (5494 2961).

REFLECTION GALLERY

The gallery in the Montville Uniting Church now displays a series of photographs by Rev. Graham Warne illustrating the song by Julie Perrin, For You Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland, a song that draws on the Australian Inland for its images in its prayer for peace. With extra cleaning and the usual distancing requirement, the church remains open daily from 10 till 3. Please feel free to visit and to tell others about it.

PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE 2020

On **Saturday 3 October 2020**, Uniting Church in Australia President Dr Deidre Palmer will host a webinar to open up the conversation about God's call to us in our everyday lives, and to showcase some of the content of the 2021 conference. The topics are:

- Called by God 1pm-2pm
- Every Member Ministry 2.30pm–3.30pm
- Faith in public life 4pm-5pm

On Sunday 4 October, worship will be live streamed through the Assembly online worship forum. For more information or to register, visit the website.

https://uniting.church/prescon2020webinar/

Registration is free. Webinars will be recorded and they will be made available for people to use in their local context. The President is offering to join people's conversation online, if they are using the recordings of the webinars.



Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

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Friday off-day.

Church Office: Jing Wang 07 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9 am to 12 noon Email: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

Palmwoods Pastor Kay Nixon

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Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538 Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864

BRUC Chair: Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864
Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au
Notice Sheet: Contributions requested before 10 am
Wed. admin@ ourcommonlife.org.au



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