

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

October 18 2020+ **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

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

Services: Service, Prayers and Readings



Montville: 8:15 am Worship Service Maleny: 9:45 am Worship Service 15:30-17.00pm Family Fellowship

Palmwoods: 10:00 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 18th October **Pravers and Readings**

RCL: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10: Matthew 22:15-22 >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Next Sunday 25th October **Prayers and Readings**

RCL: Exodus 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6,13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

The Week Ahead

Tuesday October 20th

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 October 22nd

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday October 23rd

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.

God's Imprint on the Soul

Matthew 22:15-22

Whose likeness do you carry? Have you ever been told that you look like someone else? What if you were told that you bore a remarkable likeness to God? What would you say? You'd probably say, "I've never seen God to know." But, of course, when we talk about being made in the image or likeness of God we are not talking about physical likeness. We are talking about a spiritual likeness. You might say that it's your rational, creative, relational human nature that makes you in some ways like God. You might say that people reflect something of God as they live Christ-like lives. But it also might mean that our lives belong to God. As the image on a coin indicates the realm to which it belongs, so our being in the image of God indicates that we belong to God's realm. In spite of what we are often told, we do not own ourselves. Our lives are not ours to do with as we please.

Just as we have responsibilities to the society to which we belong (taxes, respect for law, etc) so, with God' image imprinted on our souls, we have responsibilities to God. It is part of our sinful human condition that we do not fulfill those responsibilities as we should, but hearing the call of the kingdom of God involves taking those responsibilities seriously.

We are meant to give honour and respect to God and the way that God meant life to be lived, and to do this not merely out of duty, but out of love for the One who first loved us. Likewise, out of love, we are to respect all others who bear God's image.

- Whose likeness do you carry? What have other people suggested?
- What do you think of the idea that all people properly belong to God and that it is only human sinfulness that prevents them from acknowledging it?
- Do you agree that being human involves us in responsibilities? What are they? And to whom are we responsible?
- How do you feel about carrying God's imprint on your soul?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

The gift of Joy

1 Thessalonians 1 vs 6

Joy is a short, yet spectacular word. It defies complete definition, full description and thorough understanding, yet is real. Very real.

Joy is a gift of God, from God. It is divine, sacred and irrevocable and indestructible. Yet it needs to be received. Embraced.

"Joy is a state of mind and an orientation of the heart. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It is something or someone that provides a source of happiness." (Theopedia.com).

Joy (*chara*) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It comes from abiding in God. From journeying with God, with God journeying with us.

It is a state of mind and orientation of the heart, meaning that it is a perspective we have on life. Viktor Frankl, an Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and survivor of Auschwitz, wrote in his book *Man's Search for Meaning* "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Joy is a significant part of our witness. Of our faith in the Trinity: The Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a gift, (*charis*) together with faith, hope and love (1 Thess 1-10).

It is an abundant gift. In 1 Thess 3 vs 9 Paul trips over double use of joy/rejoice – rhetorically asking: "How can we thank God concerning you for all the joy that we rejoice because of you, before God.

Joy is not only a noun. It is also a verb. Remarkable that Paul commands bluntly (1 Thess 5:16): "Always rejoice!"

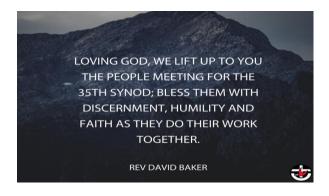
A timely reminder perhaps for us imitators of Christ. Would people trip over giving thanks for all the joy they experience concerning us? Shalom Liena

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.

35TH SYNOD 23-25 October 2020: GROW

Please pray for the coming Synod, which will be different in that it will be an e-synod.



PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS 2020 TODAY Sunday 18th: A brief meeting will be held at Maleny after the service. An update will be given about progress thus far. Clarification about activities leading up to 25 Dec. Volunteers will be sought. Thanks in Anticipation.



LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP CELEBRATION.

Lets say goodbye to this year by enjoying each



other's company in a Relaxing Morning Tea.

Place: The Orangery, Cairncross Corner, Maleny. Date: **Thursday**, **19**th **November, 2020**.

Time: **9.30 – 11.30am**

Cost: \$15.00 per person. (this will include savoury and sweet).

We look forward to sharing in a welcoming and COVID free setting. Trust you are able to come! Then with 'Hope" we look ahead to a safer and happier 2021 for us and families and friends, our community and our world.

For numbers – Please reply to Marnie via list at church or Patricia

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

minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

Friday off-day.

Church Office: Jing Wang 07 5429 6995

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

Community Pastor Kay Nixon

Pastor kaynxn43@gmail.com 0412 539020

Tongan Siale Lolohea 0436 463 538

Community BRUC Chair:

BRUC Chair: Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864
Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au



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