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

November 15 2020+

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

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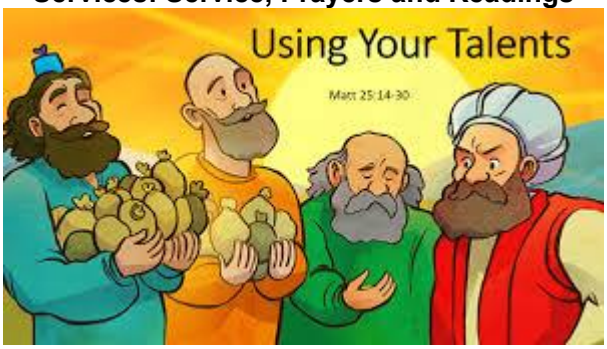
Services: Service, Prayers and Readings



Montville: 8:15 am Worship Service
Maleny: 9:45 am Worship Service
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 15th November
Prayers and Readings
RCL: Joshua 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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The fear of difference

"There is neither Jew nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28)

I read recently that much of political rhetoric drives our fear of difference; and the inverse is also true: our fear of difference fuels the political rhetoric. But this is not only a reality in the political sphere, but also in our personal, social and faith spheres.

One of humankind's basic needs is to be accepted. To belong. Look at any teenager (and most persons), who will go to great lengths to be accepted.

And because we long to be accepted, we long to be the same. We feel safe and secure in the group. In what we call "normal". And then the normal becomes the tradition and the truth.

We fear persons who are different to us. We fear persons of another colour or creed, or gender or sexual orientation. We fear they will change us, change our values, change our beliefs. We feel safe, secure with persons who think like me, speak like me and believe like me. And soon our way of thinking, speaking and believing becomes the "norm" and the truth.

The reality is that the world is diverse. The community, the church, the local congregation are places of diversity. Persons who think differently, speak differently, worship differently and yes, even believe differently. Persons interrupt the Bible differently, have different images of God.

So how do we respond? The answer is multifold and complex. Yet, I belief there are several guiding principles: one is *unity* and another *love*. We need to take our unity in Christ seriously. It is a critical part of our identity. It was Christ's fervent prayer at the eve of His crucifixion. Unity, or inversely, dissent and fear of persons of different culture, creed, class, colour and gender were the issues the early church struggled with. Things do not seem to have changed much the past few millennium!

And the Word teaches us that God is love and that there is no fear in love. Indeed, love drives all fear out.

"God is love,
and those who live in love live in union with God
and God lives in union with them.
There is no fear in love;
perfect loves drives out all fear." (1 John 4)

Shalom Liena

MINISTRY of WRITING

Paul's ministry was primarily a ministry of writing - an enriching and lasting ministry. Letters and cards, e-mails, texts, instagrams or whatever – words encourage and hearten. So please get writing!

I am thinking specially of persons who have recently left BRUC and relocated and others who are grieving and recovering from illness. Please check the directory for addresses and if you cannot find an address – Jing will know!!!

MINISTRY OF PRAYER: There are a number of persons in our communities that are grieving and recovering from serious health issues. Let us hold them before the Lord. Please let **Helen Uhlmann** know if you wish to receive requested, yet confidential issues for prayer.

NEW VINE - the next edition is due very soon and will focus on **HOPE**. My HOPE 4U is that some of you will feel inspired to write something, talking about where/how your life has been touched by hope - it can cover any situation where hope was, is or will be important for you and yours. If it could reach me at **grandar@bipond.net.au** by **Thursday 26 November,** that would be great. Many thanks in advance. Graham Dempster.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DONATIONS

A donation box has been setup in the Church Foyer. Donations are needed this year for Christmas lights to decorate the outside of the Church. Please donate if you can.

COVID SAFE CHURCH

We're seeing a positive turnaround in covid-19 cases across Australia. As at the time of writing, Australia had two days of no transmissions across the country. BUT, as borders re-open and with Christmas looming, we need to be extra mindful of the risks.

We all have a part to play in preventing an outbreak in QLD through –

- Maintaining physical distancing of **1.5 meters**
- Maintaining good **hand hygiene** (washing or sanitising hands regularly)
- Maintaining **respiratory hygiene** (coughing or sneezing into elbow)
- Maintaining **contact tracing** and rapid response (keeping contact details for 56 day for each worship service/activity conducted by the Church)
- Frequently cleaning/disinfecting the spaces we use
- If unwell, stay at home.

If you are having problems or want further clarification, phone **Peter Callaghan M: 0458 263 322**.

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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:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874 minister@ourcommonlife.org.au
Friday off-day.

Church Office: Jing Wang 07 5429 6995
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Tongan Siale Lolohea 0476 306 815

Community BRUC Chair: Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864

Internet: http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au

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