

# Our Common Life

# **Blackall Range Uniting Churches**



Uniting in Christ | Acting with love | Living with hope | Witnessing in faith | Working for justice

# December 6 2020+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

Services: Service, Prayers and Readings



Maleny 9:45 Coral Communion Service Palmwoods 10:00 Family Service Montville 4:30pm Faith Conversations

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="www.ourcommonlife.org.au">www.ourcommonlife.org.au</a>

### This Sunday 6th December

RCL: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December:
Montville: 8:15 am Holy Communion
Maleny 9:54 Worship Service
Palmwoods 15:00 pm Garden Fellowship
Prayers and Readings

RCL: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

### The Week Ahead

### Tuesday December 8th

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

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

**Wednesday Cuppa Conversation** Season 2 will be back in 2021. Meanwhile enjoy some episodes from Season 1: <a href="https://www.ourcommonlife.org.au">www.ourcommonlife.org.au</a> under Cuppa Conversations

### Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

### Friday December 11th

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.

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### **Parallel Universes**

2 Peter 3:8-15

Have you heard of multiple or parallel universes? It's a controversial theory, but some scientists suggest that there could be more than one form of reality. Whether there is any scientific truth in that or not, the Christian message is based on the understanding that there is an alternative universe. It is generally called heaven, although when heaven is integrated with this world it is called a new heaven and a new earth, a new creation or the kingdom of God.

In olden times, when people thought that the earth was flat and that the sky was like a roof over the top it used to be thought that heaven was up above the sky, hence we still refer to the sky above us as the heavens. However, with our much-expanded view of the universe we no longer think of heaven as a place up there; it is another reality. It is life on another dimension.

Being of a spiritual nature, this alternative reality is not limited by time and space: "With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." While we still await the day of the Lord's coming, we are able to live in fellowship with Christ day by day. As a realm without sin it is a realm of holiness and goodness, so Christ is constantly calling us to live in holiness and goodness all the days of our lives. Being part of God's new creation through Christ we bring the influence of God's realm to bear upon this familiar God-owned but sin-corrupted universe.

- You might like to use your search engine to find out a bit about parallel universes.
- Do you find it more helpful to describe heaven as another reality rather than as a place?
- In what way can God use us to bring God's influence to bear on our world today?
- How are we to wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home (2 Peter 3:13)?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

### "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem ..."

(Isaiah 40 vs 1)

"Comfort, comfort my people". These are beautiful, much loved words. The subject of many a song and magnificent compositions. It is a message of tenderness, of forgiveness, of a new dawn. This is not a message of fire and brimstone, but one of good tidings. Of the Good Shepherd who tenderly gathers the lambs, carries them close to his heart and gently leads the ones who have young, the nursing mothers, the vulnerable.

Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins: The Good News does not stand alone. It comes with meaning and purpose. It comes into a world of darkness and seeks repentance, seeks change. The call is on people to turn away from the darkness and confess their sins, to be baptised into a new way of life

**Messenger:** And the good tidings need a messenger. One to prepare the way of the Good Shepherd, to make straight the paths for Him; one to go up on a high mountain and to lift their voice with a shout.

A messenger that looks different. Lives differently, speaks differently. A messenger bold to climb high on a mountains, courageous to shout the good tidings: "Here is your God!"

I wonder who the messenger may be? Shalom Liena

# SUNDAY $13^{\text{TH}}$ 5PM PALMWOODS CAROLS IN THE GARDEN

I especially encourage many of you to attend our Carols in the community garden at Palmwoods.

Helpers needed to assist with parking, COVID-registration, seating. Please contact Liena or Kay. See you there! And if you need a lift it can be organised!

## CHRSTMAS CAROLS AND SERVICES Diarise these dates:

11 Fri 6pm Maleny Christmas Carol Concert

13 Sun 5pm Palmwoods Carols in the Garden

16 Wed 5pm - 7pm Montville Carols on the Green

20 Sun 7pm Maleny Baptist Church Carols on the

grass at Baptist Church

22 Tues 7pm Witta Carols @ Lutheran Church

24 Thurs 7pm Maleny Uniting Church Stories and

Songs: Journey from Bethlehem to

Jerusalem

25 Friday Christmas Day Services:

7:30am Montville 8:00am Maleny 9:00am Palmwoods

### **CHRISTMAS RESOURCES**

The Queensland Synod's Christmas theme for 2020 is "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices".



а year when good news stories are needed more than ever before, the story of the Christchild being born as one of

reminds us again that we are important to God. In our weariness, God comes to us inviting us to rejoice in the midst of the chaos, lift our heads to the sun when we are brought low, and seek the way of love instead of despair. How might we dare to live out "a thrill of hope" this advent season?

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS

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.

### **PASTORAL CARE MEETING**

Liena would like to hold a meeting every 2 months so as to be more focused in our care. We would like all our careers to attend so would you let me know the day that is suitable for you. Proposed time is 3.30pm on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, first week of the months February, April, June, August, October, December 2021.

Thank you all those who have been ringing and contacting each other. However, it would be good to have more of you sharing on the care team. Please consider this prayerfully and join us. **Dorothy** 

### **Ministry Contacts**:

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Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874

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Friday off-day.

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Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9 am to 12 noon Email: <a href="mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au">admin@ourcommonlife.org.au</a>

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Community

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Blackall Range Uniting Church Maleny Uniting Church, Montville Uniting Church, Palmwoods Uniting Church