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

December 13 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 Holy Communion
Maleny 9:45 Worship Service
Palmwoods 5:00 pm Carols in the Garden

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 13th December
RCL: Isaiah 61:1-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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Next Sunday 20th December:
Montville: 8:15 am Worship Service
Maleny 9:45 Worship Service
Palmwoods 10:00 am Holy Communion
Prayers and Readings
RCL: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4,19-26
Romans 16:26-27; Luke 1:26-38

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The Week Ahead

Tuesday December 15th
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: www.ourcommonlife.org.au under Cuppa Conversations

Thursday December 17th
9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

Friday December 18th
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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Release from Bondage

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11.

We long for peace and happiness, but have you noticed that it is the times of defeat and sadness that shape our lives most profoundly. Bushfires, Gallipoli, cyclones, droughts, world wars, economic depression – these have shaped our Australian self-understanding rather than the safe and easy times. So it was for ancient Israel. It was the experience of slavery in Egypt and exile in Babylon that stood out most clearly in their collective memory. These were times when they were aware of God's saving grace most keenly for out of these situations God rescued them.

Then the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus is sometimes represented as another Exodus or Release from Captivity. In his preaching on Isaiah 61 in the Nazareth synagogue, Jesus described his ministry as release from Babylonian exile. In using this comparison, Jesus implied that the human race is in captivity to Satan, but his great announcement was that through him God was bringing deliverance to all.

Why continue to live in bondage then when we have been set free? Why plod along under the load of our sinfulness when we have been redeemed? Why continue with violence and greed when the way of peace and justice is opened up for us? And as the spirit of the Lord is upon us, we are sent to bring the good news about salvation to all who struggle under the burden of obligations, political and economic oppression, addictions to self-serving interests and to pleasure, imprisonment by their own habits and cultural mores. The Lord who loves justice and hates robbery and wrongdoing calls us to model in our daily lives the Gospel that we preach.

- Is it true in your own experience that it is the times of defeat and sadness that have shaped your life most profoundly?
- Great writing, like that in Isaiah 61, while coming out of a particular situation, release of the Israelites from captivity in Babylon, can be relevant to other situations as well. Can you think of other writings that, while written out of a particular situation can be applied more generally?
- This passage is all about deliverance. From what has God delivered you? From what does our community need to be delivered?
- How are you modelling the Gospel in your daily life?

Rev Ron Potter ***Piula Publications***

Joy to the World

Isaiah 61:1-11
"Rejoice always!"

Joy: Gift from God Joy is a gift from God – one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is an attitude an outlook an insight, a choice, but also much more that that – I is divine, because it is from God, of God. (1 Thess 1:6)

Joy and Justice go together. The text from Isaiah clearly links, inextricably, joy and justice together. There can only be joy when there is justice. When the wrongs have been put right; the unjust has been destroyed.

Joy is the embodiment of the kingdom of God.

Rejoice always! To delight in God's grace! The imperative to rejoice always, is closely linked to pray unceasingly and to give thanks in everything (1 Thess 5:17-18).

All three commands seemingly impossible – yet they are not only commands but divine gifts. Once we are able to accept them as gifts we are able to embody them! Shalom Liena

An Invocation To The Holy Spirit
by St. Symeon (949-1022 A.D.)
https://www.danwilt.com/st-symeons-invocation-prayer-to-the-holy-spirit/

Come, true light.
Come, life eternal.
Come, hidden mystery.
Come, treasure without name.

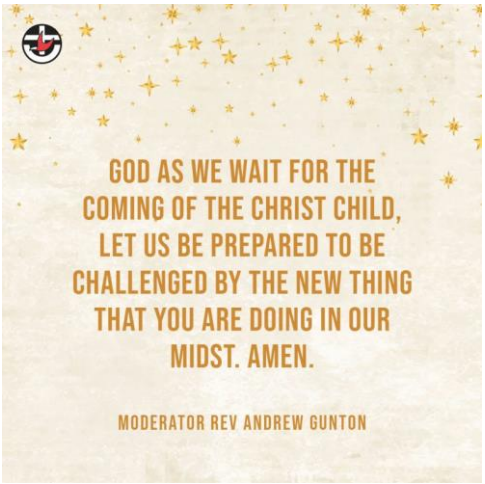
Come, reality beyond all words.
Come, person beyond all understanding.
Come, rejoicing without end.
Come, light that knows no evening.

Come, unfailing expectation of the saved.
Come, raising of the fallen.
Come, resurrection of the dead.
Come, all-powerful, for unceasingly you create, refashion and change all things by your will alone.

Come, for your name fills our hearts with longing, and is ever on our lips.
Come, for you are yourself the desire that is within me.
Come, my breath and my life.
Come, the consolation of my humble soul.

Come, my joy, my glory, my endless delight.

TODAY 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:
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

PRAYER: `Jane Austen
O Lord, lay words in my mouth to pray to you,
so that you will have joy in listening to them!

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

Community Pastor Pastor Kay Nixon
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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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