



# 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

**24 January 2021**

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Service, Prayers and Readings

Montville: 8:15 am Worship Service

Maleny 9:54 Worship Service

Palmwoods 10:00 am Holy Communion  
Prayers and Readings

RCL: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ; Mark 1:14-20

Catch up on our E-Services under E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page: [www.ourcommonlife.org.au](http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au)

**Next Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January:  
Combined Commissioning Service  
At Maleny at 9:45am**

**Prayers and Readings**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ; Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ; Mark 1:21-28

### SPECIAL PRAYER

“May I live this day

Compassionate of heart,

Clear in word,

Gracious in awareness,

Courageous in thought,

Generous in love.

John O’Donohue

### NEWS:

➤ **KYB will meet on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 1.30pm** to be introduced to our new Bible study. Anyone who wants to know more is welcome.

➤ **Pastoral Care team will meet on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 4pm** at the Maleny church. **Dorothy**



### \*\*\*\*\*LECTIONARY THEMES\*\*\*\*\*

#### What Kind of Messiah?

##### Mark 1:14-20;

Whether it be the child’s eagerly awaited birthday party, the pregnant mother’s birthing expectations, or a carefully planned major holiday, there comes a time when the period of waiting is ended and anticipation turns into lived experience. When the time arrives, it may live up to expectations or be a great disappointment. It may exceed expectations.

All four gospel writers tell us that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was the fulfilment of Israelite expectations about a coming Messiah. “The kingdom of God has come near,” they said. However, for many of his fellow citizens, he was so different from what they expected that they could not identify him as such. They still await the coming of the Messiah. That’s not surprising. Instead of ruling with political, military, and economic power, his rule was an expression of love – self-giving, compassionate, holy love. Instead of being for Israel alone, it was for all people.

For those who could see it, it exceeded all expectations. It called for a complete change of approach. Hence the call to repent and believe. It involves the dethronement of our ego and our cooperation with the Spirit of Christ dwelling within us.

Could this be the message for Australia on Australia Day? National greatness does not come from finding a political, military, and economic messiah, but from allowing Christ to have his way in national, community, family, and personal life.

- Recall times when your periods of expectation come to fruition. Were your expectations realized or exceeded, or were you disappointed?
- If Jesus was so different from the Messiah generally expected in his day, why claim for him the title of Messiah?
- Why is it necessary to repent and believe to become part of the kingdom of God?
- What makes a nation truly great?

**Rev Ron Potter**

**Piula Publications**

## NEW LOOK: Our Common Life

First day the church office opened for 2021 Jing said what about something fresh, something new for *Our Common Life* – so here is a new look, for a new year! As most of *Our Common Life* is read online we thought some colour and different shapes and sizes may make the reading easier and more fun. And being on-line we can stretch the content to more than two pages, if necessary

**What do you think? Your feedback please! Also your contributions please –send in thoughts, prayers, inspirational encounters, photos!**

*Our Common Life* is more than simply notices, it is indeed our common life - our experience together. Our we stay connected.

We plan to have snippets and contributions for each of the worship centres.

**So take note – can someone from each worship centre please put their hand up and commit to coordinating a contribution from their respective centre each week. You need not write it yourself each week, but simply ensure a contribution is sent to Jing at [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au) by noon on the preceding Wednesday. Anyone feeling the flame of response to do so burning in their souls please contact me or Jing!**

In anticipation Liena

**24th January**

**Titus 1:1-3; 2:11-3:8**

*God the Philanthropist*

Our message today is from Titus and I encourage you to read this remarkable, yet oft neglected letter of Paul to his young Greek fellow worker and partner, often described as an emissary – representative and messenger. Paul himself refers to Titus as “zealous” and “enthusiastic” (Reference to Titus can also be found in Gal 2:1-3; 2 Cor 7:5-7; 8:6, 8:16-24).

We are in the time of Epiphany – God’s appearance and revelation to us. It is the time on the church calendar between Christmas and Lent – so a special time during which we reflect upon how God appears to us and in Titus 3:4 God is described as the *phil- anthropist* meaning lover of humankind.

And Titus 3 vs 5 speaks of baptism as the ‘washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit’. So we will also recall our baptism and the meaning thereof for our daily lives.

Here then, is an adapted modern prayer on baptism, from a modern liturgical site

## Baptismal Prayer

Lord, thank you for  
the precious gift of baptism,  
that we can publicly declare  
our love and passion for you.

Lord, we ask for your  
goodness and blessings  
to be poured out on us.

We pray that you would work deeply  
within our hearts and souls  
to renew and refresh them each day.

Come guide our footsteps,  
give them a hope and a vision  
for the future.

Today, the past is gone.  
We stand free and whole,  
loved and forgiven  
within the kingdom of God.

Father, cover and protect us now,  
encircle us with your promises and  
fill their hearts with joy.  
May our baptism be a gift  
we cherish and remember  
forever! Amen.

(adapted modern baptism prayer from  
[www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))

## The Week Ahead

### Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup>

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 February 2021. Meanwhile enjoy some episodes from Season 1: [www.ourcommonlife.org.au](http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au) under Cuppa Conversations

### Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>

9am-12pm Church Office open 5429 6995

### Friday January 29<sup>th</sup>

1.30pm Know Your Bible (KYB) 5494 2486

**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.

## Synod News

### Online worship services

Here is a list of Queensland Uniting Church congregations who are [live streaming](#). For suggested changes or corrections to this list, please email the [Mission Engagement Team](#).

### Plenty – Register your interest

You are genuinely invited to be part of Plenty. [Register your interest](#) on the Plenty web page. We would love to hear from you.

### Second Plenty video – Discipleship (innovation)

Our world and communities are constantly changing and so too must our church in order to share the timeless message of Christ.

Director of Mission Strategy Scott Guyatt invites you to be part of this *Shared life. Flourishing communities* commitment  
<https://unitingchurchinaustraliaqueenslandsynod.cm ail20.com/t/r-l-ijukiiyk-ijdhkrqih-x/>



## Ministry Contacts:

**Minister:** Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874  
[minister@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)

**Community Pastor** Pastor Kay Nixon  
kayn43@gmail.com 0412 539020

**Tongan** Siale Lolohea 0476 306 815

**Community BRUC Chair:** Bruce Johnson 0407 180 864

**Internet:** <http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au>



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



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

Range Uniting Churches acknowledge the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi Blackall / Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional owners of this land.