



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

18 July 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

BAPTISM

TODAY we welcome Thomas and Amy Gray, together with their eldest Angus as they present their youngest child **Charlie Thomas Gray** for Baptism in our Maleny worship service this morning. Welcome all family and friends.



Prayers

9:00am at Maleny

Services

Montville 8:15am: Worship Service

Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service

Palmwoods: 10:00am Holy Communion

RCL Year B Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Catch up on our E-Services under E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page: www.ourcommonlife.org.au

Next Sunday 25 July 2021

Montville 8:15am: Worship Service

Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service

Palmwoods: 15:00am Garden Reflections

RCL Year B Readings

2 Samuel 11:1-5; Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



PRAY FOR SOUTH AFRICA EVENT
Calling on all who are saddened by the events taking place in South Africa at the moment to a gathering at Connections on King, Uniting Church Centre Buderim, across from the Coffee Club on Wednesday 21 July @ 6:30-7:30pm to pray, support and stand in solidarity with our families and friends in South Africa. All welcome.

COVID SAFE EVENT HOSTED BY
BUDRIM UNITING CHURCH

LECTIONARY THEMES

Sheep Without a Shepherd

Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

In these two readings, the words that stand out for me right now are, "As he went ashore, he (Jesus) saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34) and, in Ephesians, the reference to the Gentile Christians once being, "Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world".

These passages apply to many people today who are searching for a spirituality, hungry for a deep and satisfying relationship with the Infinite, confused by beckoning isms and gurus, empty of meaning and ultimate purpose for their lives, aware that something is missing but they do not know what it is.

The Spirit of Christ still looks with compassion on such people. Whether they give some allegiance to the Judeo-Christian tradition or whether they search around through an assortment of other traditions, we see people floundering, lost and bewildered.

They haven't realized that with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus a new possibility opened up, a different way of living life. They don't understand that Jesus offers the vision of a world re-made after God's own heart. They don't live within the experience of God's love and grace. They don't rejoice in God's forgiveness and acceptance.

They are restless because they are not in a trusting relationship with God. They cannot recognize God's presence and activity in the world around them nor in their own hearts and lives; nor in the people that they meet day by day.

They don't realize it, but, while they may reject or ignore God, they have chosen substitute gods like money and possessions, feelings, pleasure, power, popularity, maybe nationalism, patriotism, sport or just plain selfishness, yet, deep down, they know that these do not satisfy.

Compassion will not allow us to shrug our shoulders and keep the Jesus-message to ourselves.

- What signs do you see of a spiritual restlessness in people today?
- Where are people looking in their restless search for spirituality?
- Why don't they accept Christ's offer to be their shepherd and guide?
- What did Jesus mean when he said that the people were like sheep without a shepherd?



Carers

We are looking for more carers within BRUC. Essentially caring is connecting. It entails communication. Making contact. Getting to know someone and dropping in via a telephone call, note or cuppa. If anyone wishes to join the group of carers **please contact Liena.**

Volunteers Care Course

And for those who are interested in more in depth understanding of caring, like:
*how to make conversation with others,
*how to listen actively and empathetically,
*how to take care of yourself, and
*the theological foundations of caring there is an excellent course specially developed and run by Blue Care carers. Blue Care will come and run it in Maleny if we get a dozen or more. It is likely to be run over a course of 3 Saturday mornings
If you are interested please **contact Liena or Jing.**

REFLECTION GALLERY

The artist whose paintings are currently on display in the Montville Uniting Church is Wendy Jarrott-Smith of the Maleny Baptist Congregation. Her bright, abstract acrylics, together with the words she has written to accompany them are arousing much interest. The Gallery is open each day 10am till 3pm

MALENY CHURCH KEY

Those who have a Maleny Uniting Church key are asked to kindly cooperate in an audit of keys. Please respond to Jing at admin@ourcommonlife.org.au and advise that you still have your allocated key. Please locate the rank number or letters AND the issue number imprinted on the key and tell her ASAP. (Numbers 2 and 21 are of particular interest.) As the church building has an ever increasing number of hirers it is crucial that anyone who no longer has reason to hold a key considers handing it in so it can be reallocated. Thanks in anticipation
Malcolm Baker

This Coming week

Tuesday 20 th 9:30-12pm	Cuppa Craft at Maleny
Tuesday 20 th 4pm	Maleny Mission team
Wednesday 8:30-9:30	Meditation at Maleny

MALENY UNITING CHURCH FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Invites you to our "PINK CUPPA" in AID of the McGrath Foundation on **Thursday 19th August 2021 at 9:30 am The Orangery, Cairncross Corner.** \$20 this includes a Donation to the McGrath Foundation
Speaker: Cathy Apelt, Breast Care Support Nurse.
Please reply by 12th August.



- Patricia email pstlcklev@bigpond.com or •
- **Marnie phone 54999394** or • add your name to the list at the back of the church - thanks

Please bring a friend (friends) to share a delicious morning tea accompanied by the soothing tones of the Harp. We ask you to wear a touch of pink, such as a scarf, in line with our theme. We look forward to welcoming you to support a very worthy cause.
Marnie and Patricia

DATE CLAIMER: SUNDAY 15 August 15th August at 1:30-2:30pm Child Protection Training - all leaders (Council and those who participate in Fun Days, Sunday School/KidsBiz etc are required to complete this training every 2 years. Please make every effort to attend)

This month's Uniting News theme is "**Convenant**" as we consider the powerful agreements that bind us together with each other and with God.

What Covenanting means to me is that as a church we have the opportunity and commitment to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8) with our indigenous brothers and sisters—just as God requires of us!
It is time for the truth of our history to be told.



It is time for us as a nation to "humble ourselves" (2 Chronicles 8:14) and confess our historic failures so that "our land can be healed" Rev Gwen Fisher

OFFERING

Kindly remember to continue to give your weekly/monthly offerings. They can be Direct Debited to:
Blackall Range Uniting Church,
ANZ Bank,
BSB 014-507 A/c 3762 29735.

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

I Lift Up My Eyes (Lockdown Psalm)

Martin Wroe

Apr 24, 2020

I lift up my eyes from this lockdown
Outside, I cover my face
My friends become danger
I become threat
Inside, these walls close in
This safety and this cage
Inside, we're too close
And, a little distant
Inside, I'm alone, I'm scared
Outside, I step aside from you
Hold my breath as you pass.

I lift up my eyes from this lockdown
I thought plagues were the tantrums
Of a petulant god, we no longer believe in
So why can't I see my parents,
Can't hold my grandchildren,
Except on this screen
That frees me as it captures me.

I lift up my eyes,
They are wet from my tears
Why wouldn't I break down?
We had our differences but, what I said,
It came out wrong, I have these regrets
My days slip through these dried out fingers
Raw from washing, Wet from tears
I lift up my eyes from this lockdown
From where will my help come.

I don't know if I believe in you
You don't make it easy,
I don't have the strength to carry much belief
Is there someone who believes in me,
Who might carry me, hold me
Might be present in ways I never knew
Might be looking toward me,
As I lift up these eyes,
With Faith, with Hope, with Love
Is that too much to ask?
Is that a prayer?

My help comes in a window box
The shy defiance of a yellow daffodil
On a street, the mauve wisteria, showing off
The discreet conversation of the trees
- what must they say about us -
The dance of every season, the dawn, the dusk
How they carry us
My help comes hidden inside PPE,
From those who heal, protect,

Deliver food, run errands, who call me,
On the phone, across a street,
Can you believe this? How's your day?
My help comes from those who sit and listen
When I no longer make sense
Who wash me clean, and break a broken
blessing over me
Who walk beside us when we die
They neither slumber nor sleep
No wonder they look exhausted
How they carry us.

My help comes when I notice those who love me
I hold them tenderly, in all this silence,
The being held, the holding, the weighted joy
That cradles all the sorrow, all the loss
All this love in all this life
How they carry us.

I hold them all, they hold me
Wherever I go, they go with me
At my going out and my coming in
My end and my beginning
From this time forth, for evermore
Even when I cannot catch another breath
Still they breathe my life that I
May breathe easy again.
I lift up my eyes and find my help comes
From knowing Love is present
Against the odds, and carries us
I lift up my eyes and see
That Love will keep our lives
From this time forth, for evermore.

Thanks to Rev'd Capt Katie Watson at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for talking to me about the life of hospital chaplains and asking if I could write something.

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
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>



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Maleny Uniting Church,
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Link: <https://vimeo.com/571123635>

Fund Raising Ideas

Containers for cash

The containers for cash fund raiser has kicked off. Thanks to all who are already dropping their cans and bottles. To help you here is what can be cashed and what cannot



Plate200 and/or Cuppa100

These are fun fundraising activities! Invite 10 persons to dinner and have them contribute \$20 to the dinner this will raise \$200. And make sure to invite a couple you do not know well or want to introduce to others!. And if like me, you cannot cook, but can bring ice-cream and strawberries for desert, b uddy up with someone who can cook! Or invite 10 persons for a cuppa and scone and ask them to contribute \$10 for the bottomless cuppa and scones and raise \$100!!

