



# 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

**5 December 2021**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**



**Prayers**

**9:00am at Maleny**

**Montville 8:15am: Worship Service**  
**Maleny: 9:45am: Coral Holy Communion**  
**Palmwoods: 10:00 am Family Service**  
**RCL Year B Readings**

**Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79**  
**Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6**

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

**Next Sunday 12 December 2021**

**Montville 8:15am: Holy Communion**  
**Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service**  
**Palmwoods: 5:30 pm Christmas Carols in Garden**  
**RCL Year B Readings**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6**  
**Philippians 4:4-7 ; Luke 3:7-18**

### Prayer for Wisdom

Rev Russell Reynoldson, Forrest Lake Uniting Church.  
 As we encounter the crowds of people in shopping centres, in community spaces we hear the voice of wisdom speaking out to be heard. The voice of wisdom is calling out for justice for those disadvantaged. It cries out for those who are silenced. Your wisdom God calls for us to respond to the human cries we hear around us. Help us listen to the call upon our lives to be a loving neighbour, the call upon our lives to be your hands and your feet.

Help us Lord to respond to the cry of wisdom this Christmas season. Amen.

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

### Awareness of the Presence

**Luke 3:1-6**

God is always present, but our awareness of that presence is sometimes stronger than at other times. It is like our human relationships. We know that our loved one is close by, but we are sometimes more aware of it than at other times. We get preoccupied with what we are doing. Our mind focuses on various things during the course of the day. It is not wilful ignoring of our partner. It is just that life demands that we give our attention to many different people and tasks. However, whenever we think of it, we are glad to know that the loved one is there.

That's the relationship that God invites us into while the promise of heaven is the promise to live uninterruptedly in that divine presence. Mind you, if our human relationships break down so that there is guilt or shame, hurt or alienation, anger or suspicion, then we try to avoid the other person's presence, becoming secretive and closed in upon ourselves, deliberately freezing the other person out. That is exactly the situation that people live in unless they know God's love and grace, acceptance and forgiveness.

They close themselves off from the One within whom they live and move and have their being. Through Christ – living, dying, being raised from the dead – we have the gospel of redemption, the assurance of salvation, reconciliation with the One whose presence we have snubbed or denied. We are then released from the insensitivity that prevents us from being aware of God.

At any time, when we give our attention to it, we become aware of God present in love and friendship. We live in partnership and cooperation with the Divine. It's not just a matter of living with the comforting sense of God's presence; God provokes, disturbs, challenges and motivates us to be involved in what God is seeking to accomplish.

- Do you sometimes have a sense of the presence of God? When is that most likely to occur?
- Do you agree that sin desensitizes people from experiencing the love-filled presence of God? How are we saved from this situation?
- What is the difference between *believing in* the love and grace of God and *experiencing* the love and grace of God? How are believing and experiencing related?
- What can we do to prepare the way of the Lord into our own consciousness (Luke 3:4)?

**Rev Ron Potter**

**Piula Publications**

### This Week...

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30-12 noon.** Cuppa Craft. Come and join us over a cuppa and a yarn!

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30am -9:30am** Meditation at Maleny

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00pm** COVID information panel at Maleny

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 5:30-6:30pm** Palmwoods Community Garden Carols. BYO picnic (food and chairs) and come sing carols with well-known musicians.

**Monday 13 December 10am** Elder Abuse Forum. Introduction of The Conversation Hub at RSL Hall.

**Monday 13 December 1:30pm** Christmas Carols at Erowal.

### Montville: Below are some date of things that are happening at Montville leading up to Christmas :

✚ 25 December 7.30am Christmas Service.

✚ 26 December 8:15am Worship Service

### ADVENT Resources:

This year we are following our theme of JOY. We have already published the New Vine on JOY. Our lightUP@Christmas is about JOY. And we will be focusing on Joy during our worship services leading up to Christmas. We also have a number of carol singing events across the Blackall Range and of-course our Christmas Eve service of narration and song.

If you would like something more, here are a number of resources to follow during Advent:

Christmas Bowl:

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/resources#row--34>

Wesley Mission:

<https://www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/daily-advent-reflections-2021/>

**lightUP@Christmas. Look up and see our JOY lights up and keep looking up and around as the Christmas lights keep growing leading up towards our Christmas Trail 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm-9m! Exciting Joyful! 😊**

### CAROLS:

**05 December** (Sunday): Anglican Church carols

**10 December** (Friday): Schools break up

**12 December** (Sunday): Palmwoods Garden Carol 5:30pm

**13 December** (Monday) Christmas Carols at Erowal

**15 December** (Wednesday): Montville Community Carols on the Green

**19 December** (Sunday): Carols on the Lawn' Maleny Baptist Church

**21 December** (Tuesday): Witta Community Carols' Lutheran Church

**24 December** (Friday) 7:00pm: Christmas Carols @ Maleny

### COVID INFORMATION PANEL

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 6-8pm** Maleny Uniting Church will be hosting a COVID information evening through a panel of professionals (medical, lawyers, theologians) and life-stories of persons who have personally experienced COVID. Come hear from the experts the latest about COVID-medical, legal and more. Welcome to invite friends along.

### LightUP@Christmas

It's time to LIGHT UP our building and grounds for Christmas. Our decorations are a wonderful witness of the miracle of Jesus in our community. And, this year, we will be joined by 14 other community organisations.

- ❖ The team will be meeting on **December 11<sup>th</sup> from 8am** to erect our annual lights presentation.

On the day, we will be preparing the grounds and erecting the MUC scenes and decorations.

You are welcome to help out! Let's LIGHT UP our building and grounds.

- ❖ From **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> the Maleny UC** is hosting the Christmas Lights Trail. Visitors will be invited to pause for a Cuppa. The tea or coffee and cakes are a fundraiser for Range Care. Your help in providing dainty delicacies would be much appreciated. (Donations can be delivered on the night or made ahead of time and left in the freezer).
- ❖ Cooks please add your name and food type to the list. THANK YOU.
- ❖ You are also asked to be part of the team staffing the event from 6 to 9pm.
- ❖ There is a second roster list for 5 people per evening. DOUBLE THANKS in anticipation.

### 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**

### 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

[kaynxn43@gmail.com](mailto:kaynxn43@gmail.com) 0412 539020

**Tongan Community** Siale Lolohea 0476 306 815

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



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

## Fund Raising Ideas

Please share photos of any fundraising events you have had or any ideas for raising funds you may have.

### Containers for cash

The containers for cash fund raiser has kicked off and we have raised more than \$30, or recycled more than 300 containers!. Thanks to all who are already dropping their cans and bottles.

**C10478264**



### 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, buddy up with someone who can cook!

them to contribute \$10 for the bottomless cuppa and scones and raise \$100!!

