



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

12 December 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*****LECTIONARY THEMES*****

The Go Ahead God

Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

In Advent we emphasize the idea of God coming – God coming to the world in the birth of Jesus, God coming in the future to finalize all that was involved with that birth at Bethlehem. However, God does not come to leave us where we are, but to lead us on to where God wants us to be.

As with the Exodus story of God leading the Israelites by means of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21) so God comes to lead us further on our journey into the Promised Land. The God who comes to us is the God who goes ahead calling us to follow. Many of our Advent and Christmas traditions focus attention on the past – childhood memories, family traditions, an ancient story, time-honoured carols.

However, the One whose coming we celebrate seeks to lead us on into the future inspired by the vision of a world re-made, a world that lives within and responds to the love of God. Christ goes ahead with the words, "Follow me". This makes a difference to the way we view the future. As the unknown, the future is a time for faith. We become expectant of what God has in store for us. We are not wedded to past traditions to the extent that we cannot face the adventure of moving in new directions, facing new experiences or growing further in our relationship with God.

As others have said, God came to humanity that humanity might come to God. But not to a stationary God. Rather to the God who is ever moving on ahead, leading us, calling us, inviting us to travel further into the life of love echoing the love that God has for us all. So, rejoice. It's worth repeating, rejoice (Philippians 4:8). No matter what age we are we have something to look forward to. We live from the future; we're not bound by the past.

- What memories do you hold of Advent or Christmas activities in your childhood?
- How do you like that title, Our Go-ahead God?
- How do you feel about this: With God going on ahead, no matter what age we are we have something to look forward to?
- What speaks to you most strongly as you read Philippians 4:4-7?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications



Prayers

9:00am at Maleny

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

Catch up on our E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page:

www.ourcommonlife.org.au

Next Sunday 19 December 2021

Montville 8:15am: Holy Communion

Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service

Palmwoods: 5:30 pm Christmas Carols in Garden

RCL Year B Readings

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Philippians 4

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

This Week...

Sunday 12th 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.

Wednesday 8:30 meditation followed by Christmas Cuppa

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/>

CAROLS:

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

Christmas Day Services:

Montville 7:30am

Maleny *:00am

Palmwoods 9:00am

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Packs of envelopes for weekly giving in 2022 are now available for those who use this system.

Online banking is an even better way of making regular offerings for the work of our Church.

Over 60% of Blackall Range offerings now come by electronic bank transfers.

Montville UC Advent Display – Love Came Down at Christmas

This Christmas Display becomes our Reflection Gallery display for Advent.

The Cross at the front of the church will also be lit.

This display makes use of a number of beautiful banners on loan from the Sandgate Uniting Church: The theme being Love came down at Christmas



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.

- ❖ From **Saturday 18th to Thursday 23rd 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
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[Friday off-day.](#)

Church Office: Jing Wang 07 5429 6995

Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9 am to 12 noon

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Community Pastor

Pastor Kay Nixon

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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.

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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!!

