



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

2 January 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



Prayers

9:00am at home

Montville 8:15am: Worship Service
Maleny: 9:45am: Holy Communion
Palmwoods: 10:00am Worship Service

RCL Year C Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18.

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

www.ourcommonlife.org.au

Next Sunday 9 January 2022

Montville 8:15am: Holy Communion
Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service

RCL Year C Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22.

New year, new grace

(prayer from Ghana loosely translated)

Lord, Almighty, Eternal Creator,
 The Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End,
 a year to you it's just a blink of an eye,
 but for us it is 365 days long,
 a long road.

Lord, for us each year is packed with good and bad.
 You are Lord of every hour and every day and every year.
 But we are captive slaves of fleeting time.
 Yet Lord each year we are drawn closer to you
 people get older year after year
 but your children become younger,
 every year closer to our eternal home.
 A year lies behind us
 forever gone.

The road ahead is sometime dead straight through the
 plains
 other times it winds across steep hills,
 there will be potholes, and punctured tyres,
 missed trains, lost opportunities.
 Lord over the opportunities which passed unfulfilled I
 could despair
 if it was not that you forgive.

Lord every day your grace is new
 since Noah's rainbow.
 And every day your love is new
 since Jesus Christ.
 And every day your faithfulness is new
 since Pentecost.

Lord if you have counted the hairs on my head
 you have surely also counted my days,
 the minutes and the seconds of my life
 you hold all in the palm of your hand.

Lord I thank you put the blessings of the year which has
 passed.
 I pray for blessings for the year that lies ahead
 for enough food for every day
 but especially I pray for hunger for your Word
 for hunger for You ...

It will be a year again full of your grace
 New every day.

**Blackall Range Uniting Church acknowledges the
 first peoples who are the traditional owners of the
 land upon which we live and worship.**

WEEK Ahead

4th Tuesday 9:30-12 noon Cuppa Craft
5th Wednesday 2pm: Lindsay Charlish's Thanksgiving service Gregson & Weight, Nambour
7th Friday 7:30am-1:30pm: Sausage Sizzle at Woolworths
8th Saturday 3pm: Church Council meeting, Montville

AGM 30 January

Please take early notice that our AGM will be on 30th January 2022, after a Combined Service at Maleny.

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. We encourage you to make arrangements electronic payments.

Aspects of JOY

(excerpts from *The Book of Joy* -Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu)

"We are fragile creatures, and it is from this weakness, not despite it, that we discover the possibility of true joy. ...

Life is filled with challenges and adversity. Fear is inevitable, as is pain and eventually death. Take the return of the prostrate cancer – well it does focus the mind.

Discovering more joy does not, I'm sorry to say save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartbreak. In fact, we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily, too. Perhaps we are just more alive. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles rather than embitters.

We have hardship without becoming hard.
We have heartbreak without being broken."
(Words spoken by the late Archbishop Desmon Tutu)

LightUP@Christmas

A BIG THANK YOU to the LIGHTUP@Christmas team. It was a wonderful bright and JOYFUL display of Christmas lights – great cooperation between us and community groups!

The church office is closed until 20 January 2022. Please contact Liena 04 904 21874

Last thought ...

**"It's in Christ that we find out who we are
And what we are living for"**
(Ephesians 1 vs 11 The Message)

Life is deeper than we think. Our lives are more complex, more amazing, more mysterious than what we may think. Today we have much new knowledge, more freedom, broader horizons, yet we sometimes underestimate the deepness of our humanity.

Life is bigger – more deep, more wide, more high than what we can explain with logic and reason. There is a deep mystery to life. Some call it the soul, others may refer to it as emotional intelligence.

Irrefutably there is a part of us which is full of wonder and not fully fathomable. Think of our desires, our needs, our joys, our longings. There are elements in our being which we do not reflect upon much. Influences that have an effect upon us - relationships, friendships, language, culture, TV programmes. Social media refer to "influencers": - persons who influence others through their blogs and posts. Factors that influence how we feel, what we think and what we do and how we do it.

We confidently defend viewpoints (vaccinate or not-vaccinate). Yet we forget that we live deeper than what we think.

Join me in 2022 to reflect more upon who we are. Shalom Liena (inspired by the writings of Dirkie Smit).

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

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