



# 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

**23 January 2022**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

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

### KNOWLEDGE v. LOVE

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Knowledge is power. That is a true saying. I can be having trouble with my computer, then along comes someone who touches a button and everything works properly. It's a matter of knowing the right button to press. Without that knowledge I am powerless. Knowledge gives us power. It doesn't matter what kind of knowledge. Knowledge of the Bible or Christian theology gives a person power in argument or in understanding.

However, for the Christian there is a power more important than knowledge. It is the power of love. As Paul said, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." The faith that we are called to is not one based on knowledge alone, but one that is fundamentally based on love – Christ-like, other-enhancing love. Yes, we need to know the message, the Gospel, but our faith needs to be something more than head-knowledge. Knowledge can make us feel superior, but love leads to humility and respect. Knowledge can be used to knock other people down while love builds up.

We will soon celebrate Australia Day with discussions as to whether it should be called Invasion Day. Whatever we think about this situation it cannot be resolved purely on the level of knowledge, whether it be knowledge about the tens of thousands of years that the indigenous people have lived here or knowledge about the first fleet and the stories of exploration and settlement that followed.

All of this knowledge needs to come under the guiding hand of love and that means respect for each other. It means listening to the hurts and cries of people who feel that they have been badly treated. It means listening to the voices of those who struggled against great odds. Knowledge, research, and learning can make us a powerful nation, but if that knowledge is not subject to the more important power of love we will become a menace to the peoples of the world, not a blessing.

If we are to be a great nation we need to build a society where acceptance and trust in one another predominate, where all people are valued irrespective of their level of income or of education. As followers of Jesus we are to be leaders in putting love into practice.

- Give some examples that illustrate the saying 'Knowledge is power'.
- Knowledge was causing a division in the early Corinthian church. What knowledge is referred to in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13?
- What did Paul think love demanded in this situation? How might this apply to us today?
- What would Australian community life look like if love took precedence over knowledge?



### Face to Face Worship Service

**Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service**  
**Palmwoods: 15:30 pm Reflection in the Garden**  
**RCL Year C Readings**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 ; Psalm 19**  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a ; Luke 4:14-21**

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

### Next Sunday 30 January 2022

**Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service**

**RCL Year C Readings**

**Jeremiah 1:4-10 ; Psalm 71:1-6**  
**1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30**

### 1 Corinthians 12 vs 27

Now you are the body of Christ,  
 and each one of you is a part of it.

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

**Resumption of face to face Worship Services**  
**50% capacity, mask indoors, Check-in, Sanitizing, Social distancing**

**Maleny:** 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January 9:45am  
**Montville:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 8:15am.  
**Palmwoods:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 10:00 am

**Modified Worship Service (23<sup>rd</sup> January onwards):**

A modified face-to-face worship service will be introduced from Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, with the following precautions:

- The seats will be distanced even further apart.
- All COVID precautions will be taken (50% capacity; mask indoors, check-in, sanitizing, social distancing).
- The gathering be no more than 40 minutes, so the nature of the service will be different.
- The volunteer roster NOT be followed so that persons do not feel obligated to attend. Persons who are comfortable in attending and wish to help during the gathering are please to contact me directly.

No morning tea.

**Generally**

- It be made clear to members that attendance is voluntary and there is no expectation on persons to attend. Everyone should feel comfortable in attending or staying away. The purpose in resuming is to offer persons an option.
- The service will be recorded so there will be something available on-line.

**Montville UC:** Reflection Gallery's will display the late Rev Ron Potter's equally memorable paintings to the gallery, mostly of children.

The display will hang on the walls of the church until early March when other paintings of Ron's will hang in the Gallery over Easter, so we have much to look forward to.




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

**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**



2022 is already different from what we expected. Things have changed dramatically in just a few weeks. In a world of increased uncertainty, we give thanks that we are not alone and God is our strength in times of need. We read in Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth".

**Gracious God,**

We remember your promises made to us in the Psalms. You are our keeper. You are the shade at our right hand. You keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore. Our prayers go out for our people across our church. We lift up especially to you:

- Our members, staff and volunteers in all areas of the church with COVID-19 and those in isolation awaiting results.
- Those wearing PPE day in and day out as they faithfully care for the people we serve.
- Clients, patients and residents with COVID-19 including those in aged care, disability services, out of home care and hospitals.
- Residential aged care centres and other agencies in lockdown due to COVID-19.
- Those who may be caring for loved ones as they isolate or await news.
- People of the Maryborough region as the flood waters recede.
- Our churches and agencies in the Maryborough region as they clean up so they are able to come back online.
- People of Far North Queensland in the aftermath of ex-tropical cyclone Tiffany.
- Schools as they adjust to the delayed start of school. Students, parents and families as they too adjust to the delay.
- Staff and families from our child care centres as they manage changes from COVID-19.
- Churches as they plan worship in a safe environment and support the community around them.
- Residential colleges unsure what the future holds for their students this year.
- Lifeline Bookfest staff and volunteers as they reschedule yet again.

This list is just the beginning. We pray for others that we know—family, friends, colleagues, neighbours. May they know the peace you offer that surpasses all understanding.

Amen.

Uniting News

**Lord, God grant us perspective**

(A Prayer by Dirkie Smit – loosely translated)

Lord our God  
grant us distance, grant us space,  
please grant us perspective -  
everything feels so overwhelming,  
too much for us, too heavy, too painful,  
everything feels so difficult, so important,  
so urgent, so demanding.  
We struggle to discern, we feel overtaxed.  
Our lives feel controlled by  
everything we desire and everything we fear.  
We face a brick wall against  
all that was and all that is still to come  
against the burdens of yesterday and the concerns for  
tomorrow.

Lord our God  
grant us distance, grant us space,  
please grant us perspective -  
Free us Lord. Help us to discern.  
Teach us what is important - and what is not.  
Give us courage.  
Give us imagination. Give us patience.  
Give us the will and the ability to start afresh,  
to start from the beginning.  
Give us the excitement of a new beginning, the dawn of a  
new day.

Grant us O Lord love – which sees all so differently.  
Fill us with hope - which makes everything new.  
May we understand something of your heart,  
something of your pathos,  
and may something of your love  
reflect in our own passions,  
our own priorities and our own plans.

Remove the things that overwhelm us  
Let the dark make room for light  
Release us from our bad dreams -  
and may we see you  
every day, every moment, also today

Lord our God  
grant us distance, grant us space,  
please grant us perspective

## Blood donors needed now



Australian Red Cross  
**Lifeblood**<sup>®</sup>

With record numbers of people unwell and having to isolate, 1 in 2 can't make their donation. Can you take their place? We're calling on an extra 5,500 people every week to give blood between now and the end of January.

## What is plasma?

Just over half of your blood is plasma. It's full of proteins that can be used in 18 different ways.

## How does a plasma donation work?

It's a lot like donating blood, and just as rewarding. The process is called 'apheresis'. It might sound complicated, but it's just another word for how we collect plasma (and platelets, too).

While you're resting in a comfortable chair, a special machine draws blood from your arm. The machine separates the blood out to collect the plasma, which is actually a yellow colour. It's yellow because your red cells, which make your blood red, are returned to you during the donation.

Donating this way means you give twice as much plasma as you would in a normal blood donation! And, on top of that, you can do it more often — as often as every two weeks.

## How much blood do you give when you donate?

**470ml.** It's about 8% of the average adult's blood volume. Within 24-48 hours of donating, your body will have fully restored your blood volume.

## How long does it take to donate?

**10 minutes.** But allow for an hour for the whole appointment, which includes meeting with a friendly staff member before your donation and having a complimentary snack and drink after.