



# 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

**30 January 2022**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**



### Face to Face Worship Service

**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**

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

### Next Sunday 6 February 2022

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

**RCL Year C Readings**

**Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**

And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.  
Follow the way of love  
**1 Corinthians 13**

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

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

### Love, That's the Essential

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

It doesn't matter how prominent you are in the church or the community, if you do not have love you are nothing. You could speak in tongues, be a famous preacher, doctor of divinity, be a shining example of faith, be outstandingly generous in supporting the church and charitable institutions with your finances, even suffer martyrdom for your faith, if you do not have love you are nothing. That's 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 for today. People may reach heights of holiness and distinction, but if they do not have love, they have missed the point.

That's what it is all about. Patient, kind and generous love. Love that is devoid of any kind of envy, pride or arrogance.

When we say that God is love, that's the sort of love that we are talking about. That's the love that brings creation into being. That's the love that was lived out in the life of Jesus. That's the love that accepts us as we are and works within us to help us become all that we can possibly be. That's the love that motivates us when the Holy Spirit moves in our lives. That's the love that Jesus was talking about when he summed up what God expects of us – love to God and love to others and a proper self-regard or love for ourselves.

Paul summed up this famous passage in his communication with the Corinthian church by saying that faith and hope are great gifts that God gives to Christians, but great as these gifts are, greater still is the capacity to love.

It's great to know that God loves us. We find there a great comfort in times of loss and trouble. But that same love is meant to be reflected in us toward others. That's what God is seeking to develop in each and every one of us – generous, committed, sacrificial, other-enhancing love.

The journey of faith is a movement further and further into a capacity for love of God and neighbour in all that we do, say and think.

- The word love is used in many different ways. What are some of them?
- To what extent does this make it difficult to talk about God's love and the love that God asks of us?
- Is it possible to act with love toward someone that you do not like? What is the difference between liking and loving?
- Where is love evident in the life of your congregation?

**Rev Ron Potter**

**Piula Publications**

## COVID-CARE AND SAFETY

As we are learning to live with COVID, some church activities are resuming whilst others are still in abeyance. There is no wrong decision. I recall our "C" at the beginning of COVID, two years ago: There were 9 at one stage and they still all apply:

**Calm** – be calm.

**Cautious** – be cautious.

**Common sense** – use your common sense.

**Care** – take care of yourselves and others.

**Commit** – commit the COVID-19 pandemic to prayer.

**Candle** – Light the COVID-19 prayer-candle at 7pm (19:00) in your window every night as a symbol of hope.

**Connect** – remember to connect with one another.

**Communicate** – talk to someone.

**Cuppa Conversations** - follow our Cuppa Conversations on-line, or have one of your own

My personal buzz word at the moment is a 10<sup>th</sup> "C" – **Comfortable**. To attend or not to attend an activity – be it worship, a small group or committee meeting: Do what you feel comfortable with.

In this Our Common Life you will read of the resumption of some activities – be assured there is no judgment on those who do not attend, neither on those who do. 😊

## Resumption of face-to-face Worship Services 6<sup>th</sup> February at ALL worship centres.

We will be resuming face-to-face worship services at all our centres in February. However, we emphasise that:

- 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 duty roster is not being followed at the moment so that persons do not feel obligated to attend (hopefully we will be back to 'normal' by the end of February). If you are willing to help on a Sunday please contact Liena directly.
- 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.



## Cuppa Craft on again!

1<sup>st</sup> February on Tuesday 9:30 -12 noon  
Cuppa Craft at Maleny



## Christian Meditation Group.

Following a survey of members, it has been decided the group will remain in recess until further notice. It is expected that, depending on how Omicron tracks, this may well be mid-February. Watch this space.

## Ladies Friendship 17<sup>th</sup> February

The Ladies Friendship group will be resuming on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> February in the Maleny Church hall. Details coming....

## Blood donors needed now

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.

  
Australian Red Cross  
**Lifeblood**®





## Skills For pastoral care course (Learning the Language of Healing – Formerly LAB1)

Learning the Language of Healing is an interactive course which will develop your general skills in pastoral care, help you understand how people relate to faith communities in times of stress, and encourage you to be a better listener, particularly in being less defensive in dealing with negativity. The course will be from 25–27 March and 1–3 April at "Old Bishopsbourne" St Francis College, 233 Milton Road, Milton.

If you want to know more about the course there will be a special introductory Zoom meeting on 17 February from 7pm. [Register for the introductory meeting.](#)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/>

## Domestic and Family Violence Awareness workshop

Queensland Churches Together is   hosting a series of Zoom workshops on Domestic and Family Violence Awareness will take place on three consecutive Wednesday evenings on 2, 9 and 16 March from 7pm. [Book now.](#) There will be a charge of \$45 per person for the workshop series. The charge allows Queensland Churches Together to continue providing and developing Domestic Family Violence resources and training to be used in churches and by pastoral carers and chaplains. For more information, visit the [events calendar](#).

## Defibrillator

We are happy and grateful to announce that there is now a defibrillator at the Maleny Church. BIG thank you to PROBUS who organised its procurement through a council grant. More details on training to follow....

**Prayer in Deeds**  
**(Inspired by a prayer of Malcolm Boyd)**

Lord, I believe we can pray without words.

Lord I think of John, the financial advisor  
who faithfully advises persons' about their money;  
Or Mary the local newspaper editor;  
who creatively crafts stories with words;  
Or Jim the plumber who diligently makes sure  
the taps fit properly –  
Lord, help me to make my work a prayer to glorify you

I think of Jane and her work  
amongst less privileged children –  
at a school where a daily call  
is made to the police and ambulance,  
Yet every day Jane turns up at the office,  
remaining optimistic and full of hope  
for children who are tired and hungry  
and already hardened by violence and drugs.  
Lord, hear her prayers and bless her work

And there is Laura,  
we don't understand why she works so hard  
for so little money  
how she kindly and scrupulously vacuums and polishes.  
Is her work of a cleaner not a prayer of praise to you?

Teach me, dear Lord,  
to prayer more with deeds than words.

***My Mask* By Fr. Edward Schmidt S.J.**

Holy God, you see me and you hear me.

Through my mask, you see if I smile or if I scowl.

Through my mask, you hear me if I whisper a brief prayer  
or mutter a muffled curse.

My friends don't see or hear or know; nor do my family; nor  
my colleagues.

But you do.

This mask takes away power – the power of clear  
communication but also the possibility to infect. But it also  
grants a freedom to be with.

My smiles, my thoughts, my mumbles, though – these I  
know, but they are a greater mystery to others now.

But not to you, Lord. You see past my mask, you hear  
through it, you know.

But your mask, Lord, what about your mask? Who can see  
through your mask? Hear through it?

I cannot.

I cannot see if you smile or if you scowl.

I cannot hear if you whisper an answer to my prayer or  
brush off my curse.

I cannot sense if you are pleased with me or if you are  
waiting for me to do much better.

Can we all take off our masks, Lord? Put them away?

When the disease that moves us to mask our faces for  
safety fades away, will our eyes and our ears be stronger,  
better able to see and to hear the smiles and the frowns,  
the cries and the whispers of those who fill our lives? Who  
make our lives worth living?

Will we see, Lord, that what we think of as your mask is  
really also our own, our inability to find you in the rush of  
our lives, our failure to see you in all the wonders you show  
us, our incapacity to hear your gentle voice in the tumult  
that surrounds us.

Can we know, Lord, that we put on many masks so we can  
cope, avoid, pretend, be acceptable? (What scar did the  
Phantom's mask hide? "Who was that masked man?")

Help us, Lord, to move beyond our masks. You are here for  
us to see and to hear. Help us. Let us take off our masks.

[https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/coronavirus-prayers#a\\_coronavirus\\_prayer](https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/coronavirus-prayers#a_coronavirus_prayer)

**Ministry Contacts:**

**Minister:** Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874  
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Friday off-day.

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**OFFERING**

Kindly remember to continue to give your weekly/monthly offerings. They can be Direct Debited to Blackall Range Uniting Church.

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