



# 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

**13 March 2022**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**



### Face to Face Worship Service

**Montville 8:15am: Holy Communion**  
**Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service**  
**Palmwoods: 15:3pm Garden Fellowship**

#### RCL Year C Readings

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27**  
**Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or**  
**Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)**

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

### Next Sunday 20 March 2022

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

#### ;RCL Year C Readings

**Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8**  
**1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9**

**One thing I ask from the LORD,  
 this only do I seek:  
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
 all the days of my life,  
 to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
 and to seek him in his temple.**

Psalm 27 vs 4

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

#### Enemies of the Cross

##### Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

All parts of the Uniting Church are being asked to contribute to the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. This adds a cost to our budgets. But the cost of this abuse to the church is much greater than that.

The church which was already falling out of favour with the general community has suffered much more due to the publicity being given to this serious failure by church leaders, members and employees. Mind you, we did not need a Royal Commission to tell us that there are professed Christians who live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

It has been so from the earliest times (Philippians 3:18). What does it mean to live as enemies of the cross? For some, it has been sexually abusing children under the cover of position held within the organization of the church, but there are other even more pervasive ways in which we live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Accepting Christ's salvation without taking up the cross and following him in his love-filled way is one example.

Continuing to live self-dominated lives under the cloak of Christianity. Living as enemies of the cross of Christ means letting personal desires and ambition crowd out a willing desire to live the way of Jesus. It means self-love drowning out love for God and for neighbour. It means using the church or one's position in the church to boost one's own ego. It's not other people, those over there, it is us. It is in ourselves.

There is always that temptation within us to let selfish desire dominate. So, the need for constant vigilance and repentance. We may stumble, but we live in the assurance of God's grace, resolved to live, not just as citizens of Australia, but as citizens of God's heavenly kingdom. Let God's Spirit of love guide and move us in humility and gratitude.

- Describe a life in which self dominates.
- What are some of the ways in which people rationalize their selfishness?
- If some are enemies of the cross of Christ, who are the friends of the cross of Christ?
- What problems arise when we try to live as citizens of heaven while living as citizens of a country?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

## COMING UP for March – Details below:

- **15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 9:30 am – 12 noon** Cuppa Craft in the Maleny church hall.
- **Wednesday Maleny Meditation at 8:30 am is weekly**
- **17<sup>th</sup> Thursday 9:30-11:30 am** Ladies Friendship in Maleny church hall.
- **17<sup>th</sup> Thursday at Midday BBQ** - Men Group
- **18<sup>th</sup> Friday Sausages for Chaplaincy 8am–1 pm** Liena still looking for help with sausage sizzle.

### LADIES FRIENDSHIP

All Welcome LADIES FRIENDSHIP @ MALENY UC **Thursday 17 March 9.30 to 11.30am** Ladies. YOUR HELP is requested. If you have been part of another Congregation in the Mary Burnett Presbytery OR have current connections please contact **Nancy ASAP. 0409586601** We are endeavouring to learn about what is happening in our area so we can knowledgeably & prayerfully support fellow grassroots Presbytery members.

Our programme on the 17<sup>th</sup> will be a fun virtual tour.

ALSO

Your Recipe from a Friend is still appreciated

### MEN'S GROUP THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> @ NOON

Now that masks are off, it is time to stir ourselves into some action. In response to a number of requests, we will be meeting at the **amphitheatre** (with a smokey fire) for a casual BBQ about **midday next Thursday (17th March)**. It is a chance to reconnect. BYO food and drink. All men are welcome. Suggestions for future outings will be welcomed.

### Montville UC: Lent Exhibition: Stations of the Cross

Montville UC's reflection Gallery's will display the late Rev Ron Potter's equally memorable paintings illustration the stations of the cross from early March to Easter.

Make sure to visit the gallery as part of you Lent Reflections.



Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for the Gallery and its outreach, for the people that visit it, for Ruth Potter, wife of Ron, who lovingly provided the work which is now currently on display.



### 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**

## Lent 2022

This year we will have an intentional focus on prayer and we, the leadership pray that we will, collectively as a congregation and also as individuals, be transformed through and in our prayer life. Everyone is invited to join the leadership in **intentional and intense** prayer during Lent and we highlight some of the initiatives below.

**The New Vine:** The latest *New Vine* features prayer and various aspects of it. We encourage you to pray through the words and pages of the *New Vine*.

**A Collection of Prayers.** A collection of prayers will be available for use during Lent. This collection will have a prayer for each day, and you will be invited to jot down your own prayer every Sunday.

**Daily 5am-6am and 5pm-6pm. @**

You are also invited to join me in prayer each day between 5-6am and 5-6pm at the amphitheatre/along the amphitheatre side verandah of the church hall during Lent.

**Lenten material: 7 Sayings of the Cross: The Silent God?**

Our Lenten study is a reflection on the 7 sayings of the Cross. The material will be short reflections in writing and video presentations. We are grateful for the material that has been prepared by various persons across the congregations. We will have printed copies available.

**Montville Open Gardens.** One of the gardens, *The Shambles*, celebrates the love and energy of Michael and Kyleigh, members Montville Uniting Church.

**Easter at 3 Open Gardens at Montville**  
Sat 16th and Sunday 17th April 9am to 4 pm  
travel to Montville in the Sunshine Coast hinterland

"The Shambles"  
85 Western Avenue  
Montville

"Lower Woontooba"  
238 Western Avenue  
Montville

"Wongawilli"  
19 Manley Drive  
Montville



Visitors will enjoy three fascinating large country gardens, each with a different character in their beautiful borrowed landscapes

Plants STALLS, refreshments "Rising Scone cafe" AT "The Shambles"  
Funds raised for Cittamani Hospice [www.cittamanhospice.com.au](http://www.cittamanhospice.com.au)  
Visit beautiful Montville village and the scenic Blackall Range attractions  
Entry \$10 to each garden (cash only) children free

### MENTORING

We have spoken often about the value and joy of being a mentor for a child. Maleny State School is seeking another 5 mentors so please give it your prayerful consideration and chat to one of the current mentors: Helen U, Nancy, Jan, Liena, Sue C and Paul... and come join us on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> to learn more about it. Contact Liena for more information.

"Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult-once we truly understand and accept it-then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters."

M Scott Peck *A Road Less Travelled*

### THE NEW VINE

By now, everyone should have a copy of the latest edition - Autumn [PRAYER] . You may have noticed my foreshadowing of the next Issue No 25 Winter [LENT and EASTER] when I plan to have a retrospective edition on Lent and Easter where we can all share our Lenten and Easter insights and experiences - this could be a song/hymn; a reading; the effect of a prayer from our collection of prayers booklet; a miraculous happening; some experience that has assisted our journey; a source of uplift to the spirit; a faith builder; a response to some part of our Lenten study - any thing that affected us in some way that is faith related. Words, photos, drawings/paintings - I leave it up to each of you. It can be emailed to me at any time [grandar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:grandar@bigpond.net.au) or held until closer the publishing date which I expect will be in mid - May. Graham


### Ministry Contacts:

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Friday off-day.

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

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

### Your love is difficult to comprehend

Ockert Meyer (loosely translated)

Lord, it is the same tongue with which we praise you and slander and gossip about our neighbour.

It is with the one tongue that we testify about your love

and with which we sing our own praises.

It is the same tongue which pronounces both blessing and curse.

Oh God, how can fresh and bracken water come out of the same fountain?

It remains a mystery why we, children of God, follow every Pied Piper of this world.

And, also, Lord it remains a great mystery that you do not allow us to walk away from you completely

For greater than the mystery of our fickleness is the wonder of your faithfulness.

Greater than the mystery of our lovelessness is the wonder of your love.

The love that we know here on earth, Lord, is so often driven by selfish motives that we find it difficult to understand your love.

But, Lord, to know myself as a beloved of God, that is perhaps the most difficult of all to believe.

### After the flood



While the title might suggest a reflection on Noah and the great flood unfortunately today I am writing about something a bit closer to home. As we mop up after the flooding that stretched from Maryborough through the southeast and as far west as Moonie and Chinchilla right through Northern NSW, we pause and remember those who lost their lives, lost their homes, their possessions and with it their hope. I visited a couple of sites on Friday and found churches and their members getting involved in their communities, offering sustenance and a shoulder to lean on, cry on.

**Read more** of the reflection from **Rev Andrew Gunton**, Moderator.

