



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

20 March 2022

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



Face to Face Worship Service

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

Catch up on our E-Broadcasts on the BRUC Web-page:
www.ourcommonlife.org.au

Next Sunday 27 March 2022

Montville 8:15am: Worship Service
Maleny: 9:45am: Worship Service
Palmwoods: 15:30pm Reflections in the Garden

RCL Year C Readings

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Isaiah 55 vs 1, 2b

“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of
fare.

The Invitational God

Isaiah 55:1-9, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I don't often hear God described as the invitational God, but I like the sound of it. God, as made known through Jesus, invites us. God does not bully us, compel us or berate us. God invites. Invitation implies that we have the power to accept or reject. Invitation reminds us that the new life in Christ – redeemed, forgiven, accepted, empowered – is not self-attained. Although it comes from deep within ourselves, it comes from beyond our selves.

God respects our freedom to choose; read Isaiah 55:1. God invites us to live life as it was meant, in the divine eternal purpose, to be lived; to find that which satisfies our yearning for a better world. And God doesn't give up. The invitation is repeated over and over although we can reach a stage where we have been blocking it out so long that we can no longer hear it and therefore cannot respond to it as Isaiah 55:6 implies.

However, God keeps issuing the invitation. Come. Come further with me along the way. Come, work with me in my desire to see the world transformed. Come and find comfort, empowerment and purpose. But know this: God's ways are different from that of self-centred human beings (Isaiah 55:8-9) who create their own gods like money or possessions, happiness or pleasure, prestige or name, and allow themselves to get carried away by their own lusts and desires, or stretch God's mercy to breaking point, pushing God's boundaries to the limit. (1 Corinthians 10:6-13).

To refuse the invitation is to suffer the consequences and the consequences might look very much like divine judgment, but they are self-inflicted. God invites us to live in relation to God, to other people, to the community, and to the environment with his spirit of love empowering us. If we don't accept the invitation, we only have ourselves to blame.

- What sort of invitations do you like to receive?
- What makes it appropriate to call God an invitational God?
- What is the difference between being told what to do and being invited to cooperate in what is going on?
- What are some ways in which God's ways are different from our usual human ways?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

Prayer - From Duty to Delight Upholding one another in prayer...

Prayer is one of the great blessings of our life of faith – both as we pray for others and as we ourselves receive prayer support in our own time of need. Here are three ways in which this is practiced in our faith community...

1. **Email prayer group.** There are approximately thirty people who receive this and who have committed to praying about matters raised. There is a weekly update, "Prayer Matters", sent out and as needs arise, an email is sent requesting prayer for more urgent matters. Those who don't use email receive a hard copy of the weekly "Prayer Matters". Confidentiality is important to us and any information shared is kept to those on the prayer chain and not more widely discussed.
2. **Maleny Prayer Group.** The Sunday morning prayer group meets at 9am at the Maleny church before the service when we pray together for any matters raised. This can be a good option for any issues that are of a more private nature.
3. **Personal Prayer.** "When two or three are gathered in my name..." It can be a great blessing to sit with someone and pour out our hearts before God. After the Maleny Sunday morning service, there is someone available each week to pray with anyone with a personal prayer need or who would like to pray about a matter on their heart.

If you would like to be a part of the email prayer group or receive a weekly copy of Prayer Matters; or if you have prayer matters to raise for the chain or prayer group, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Helen Uhlmann...

helen.uhlmann@gmail.com

PH: 0407542142

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 29th to learn more about it. Contact Liena for more information.

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

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

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 illustrating 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.



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 @ Riverine Chapel

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.

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 Seane cafe" AT "The Shambles"
Funds raised for Cittamani Hospice www.cittamanihospice.com.au
Visit beautiful Montville village and the scenic Blackall Range attractions
Entry \$10 to each garden (cash only) children free

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 or held until closer the publishing date which I expect will be in mid - May. Graham

This past week it was St Patrick's Day!

(Hope your sweetpeas have been planted – mine yet to be!).

Part of St Patrick's prayer is well known. However here is the full version of the prayer known as St Patrick's Breastplate prayer, dating from around 433. Imagine how many persons have sung or said this prayer over the centuries? (<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/st-patricks-breastplate-prayer-irelands-patron-saint>)

I arise today,
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,

Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

I arise today,
Through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism,
Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial,
Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension,

Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today,
Through the strength of the love of cherubim,
In the obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs,
In the predictions of prophets,
In the preaching of apostles,
In the faith of confessors,
In the innocence of holy virgins,
In the deeds of righteous men.

I arise today, through
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon,
The splendor of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of the earth,
The firmness of rock,
I arise today, through

God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
afar and near.
I summon today
All these powers between me and those evils,
Against every cruel and merciless power
that may oppose my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's
body and soul;

Christ to shield me today
Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against wounding,
So that there may come to me an abundance of
reward.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of
me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of
me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today,
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the
Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874
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