



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

29 May 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LECTIONARY THEMES

Christian Unity

John 17:20-26

What do we pray for when we pray for Christian unity? That all Christians will think alike? Of course not. They never have, and the God who created so much diversity could hardly want that. That all denominations will merge into one great super-church? Hardly.

The Bible passage that provides the basis for our prayers for Christian unity is John 17:20-26. According to that passage, Jesus prayed that both the disciples that he had gathered around him during his lifetime and all those who later would believe in him through their testimony would be one. He prayed that they should form a unity with himself as an extension of the unity that he had with his Father. Clearly it is a spiritual unity; an intimate, interactive relationship of love.

As God the Father is present in Jesus the Son, so he is present in his followers. Together they form a unity. We give expression to this when we partake of the bread and wine at Communion.

So our prayer for Christian unity should be, first of all, a prayer for a deeper relationship with Christ on the part of all Christians. Christian unity is based on our oneness with Christ, not on creeds or doctrine, forms of worship, Apostolic Succession or unified organization.

John Wesley spoke about our union in affection. He said that Christians can be of one heart though not of one opinion, and that is the unity that he encouraged in his sermon entitled, *The Catholic Spirit*. The centre around which Christian unity exists is Jesus the Christ. Around this centre much diversity exists, but in our relationship with this centre we find ourselves at one with others who also live in a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

- ✓ *Recount occasions when you have sensed a oneness with Christians of other denominations?*
- ✓ *What would it mean for you if the unity that exists between God the Father and Jesus, the son, be taken as the model for your unity with Jesus?*
- ✓ *'Christian unity is based on our oneness with Christ': what other bases have been tried within the Christian Church?*

To what extent should spiritual unity centred on Christ be exhibited in outward forms and organization?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications



Face to Face Worship Service

Sunday 29 May 2022

Maleny: 9:45am: Combined Worship Service

Special Guest from Alpha

Followed by AGM

RCL Year C Readings

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Next Sunday 5 June 2022

Montville 8:15am: Holy Communion

Maleny: 9:45am: Pentecost Sunday

(Guest Speaker – Ryan)

Palmwoods: 10:00am Worship Service

RCL Year C Readings

**Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, (25-27)**

They were all together

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2 vs 1-4

COMING UP for next weeks– Details below

- Wednesday – Maleny Meditation at 8:30am
- Friday – Maleny KYB at 1:30pm
- Tuesday – Cuppa Craft at Alison’s place 9:30 – 12 noon
(First and Third Tuesday) 7th and 21st June

29 May Sunday 9:45am Combined Service. Special Guest speaker from Alpha

AGM at Maleny

5 June Sunday Pentecost. Guest Speaker Isaac Smith at Maleny at 9:45

5-10 June Week of Prayer

Week of Prayer

5-10 June 2022

Praying the Psalms for dear life

Please make a note in your diaries. We will be praying together our Week of Prayer series based on the Psalms from Sunday the 5th June.

Material will be available on hard copy, in audio on-line and there will also be face-to-face prayer meetings.

Maleny 5pm each day Sunday the 5th to Friday the 10th.

Montville: Wednesday at 10am

Palmwoods: still to finalise details.

For more details please contact Helen Uhlmann.

CUPPA CRAFT will be at Alison’s place on Tuesday 31st May at 9:30am. Please contact Alison and let her know you are going to join the special day at her place. Mobile No. 0429 694014.

Liena on leave Monday 30 – Friday 3rd

Liena will be away on leave from Monday to Friday. In case of pastoral needs please contact Rev Graham Dempster on 04 29944051

27 May – 3 June:

National Reconciliation Week 2022

The Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle of the Uniting Church in Australia has prepared a series of resources to help individuals, congregations and communities enter the journey of reconciliation locally. The resources, including *Living the Covenant Locally*, are available [here](#).

Psalm 36 and a Russian prayer for Animals

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.

You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalm 36 starts with the deeds of evil and wicked persons, and in the middle of the psalm is this incredible confession **of God’s love for persons and animals.**

Russia is presently remembered by many for the incomprehensible attack on Ukraine. However, I thought to share this Russian prayer for animals, loosely translated by me from an Afrikaans translation!

“Bless this day, O Lord,
and all who live today across this wide world.
Bless every piece of your beautiful creation.

O let the flowers and fruit and corn
bloom and reach out to you who enable them to grow.
O Lord, saturate the earth with your goodness!
O bless the years that lie ahead -
May we live each day to your honour and glory.
O Lord, as you bless people
bless also the humble beasts
and other living creatures
that live on earth, and in the air, and under the water.
You created them so beautiful and strong and clever.
Think of the animals that we harness to work for us.
Protect them against heat and rain.
Please provide food and shelter
to those that we neglect.
Great is your mercy –
O Saviour of the world,
please do not forget one of your creatures.”

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

Montville Uniting Church – NEW DISPLAY

The Gallery features some very interesting works of art by Julie Mengel. Julie says that these works are the embodiment of her explorations over the past few years, as we have all experienced isolation in one form or another. At her home in the hills of Bli Bli, she has been able to slow down and take time to enjoy the feel of the landscape, her creek and the local beaches.

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for the Gallery and its outreach.

Grace and peace to you. Barbara Willcocks and Ruth Potter
rpotter@westnet.com.au 07 5478 6484 or 0455 444 453
barbara.willcocks@gmail.com 07 5478 6995 or 0403 541 257

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**

**maleny uniting church ladies
friendship group
invites you to a ‘pink cuppa’ in aid
of the mcgrath foundation.**



WHEN: THURSDAY 16TH JUNE 2022 AT 9.30AM.

WHERE: THE ORANGERY, CAIRNCROSS CORNER, MALENY.

COST: \$20 THIS INCLUDES A DONATION TO THE MCGRATH

foundation. payment will be at the door. guest speaker:

to be advised.

RSVP: PLEASE REPLY BY WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE

TO – PATRICIA E-MAIL: PSTICKLEY@BIGPOND.COM

(LOWERCASE) OR PHONE – 54296196 OR TEXT OR

PHONE MOBILE – 0447765228

OTHERWISE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU REQUIRE A LIFT – THANKS. PLEASE BRING A FRIEND (FRIENDS) TO A SHARE A DELICIOUS MORNING TEA. WE ASK THAT YOU WEAR ‘A TOUCH OF PINK’ SUCH AS A SCARF IN LINE WITH OUR THEME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO SUPPORT A VERY WORTHY CAUSE.

PATRICIA, ALISON AND MARNIE.

Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman 0490 421 874
minister@ourcommonlife.org.au

Friday off-day.

Church Office: Jing Wang 07 5429 6995
Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9 am to 12 noon
Email: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

Community Pastor Pastor Kay Nixon
kayn43@gmail.com 0412 539020

Tongan Community Siale Lolohea 0476 306 815
Internet: <http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au>

The Church Hall Hire:
<https://ourcommonlife.org.au/calendar-hall-hire/#>
Or emailadmin@ourcommonlife.org.au or 5429 6995



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

DRIVERS NEEDED.

Several of our members are finding it difficult to come to Church so we need drivers to transport them. Please prayerfully consider if you have a suitable car and can help in this way and give me your name so I can match you to an appropriate person. **Dorothy**

Reflection

Can you think of a moment in your life when hope was all you had left? Was there a catalyst for you to dive deeper into your faith and ask the Lord to grant you what seemed too far away? I like to think that the Lord works in mysterious ways and that His methods are rarely noticeable. Yet here we are on a blue planet, surrounded by infinite space in a cosmos that, for planetary life to exist, is greater than one in a million million (yes, that's a real number), according to astronomer and astrophysicist Frank Drake.

Our faith will indeed be tested through moments we feel we have been thrust into against our will, which is when we can ask ourselves if our prayers will be answered (*is God even listening?*). When I feel that all hope is lost, I remember that God created the conditions for life to flourish on a planet against all odds in a universe in which there are billions of galaxies. We are so significant that He has chosen us to exist. He has given us an opportunity to create our earthly life with the promise of salvation and everlasting life in His kingdom hereafter.

May your daring hope be to believe that God is always listening; allow His presence to be felt as you navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of life. Whatever your journey, allow the power of faith to be your guiding light. God is always with us.

Andrew McKaysmith - Uniting Early Learning, content creator.

Expressions of Interest - appointments to the Board of Christian Formation



The Synod Standing Committee is calling for any person who may be interested in being appointed to the Board of Christian Formation, including as Chair. If you are interested please complete an expression of interest form found [here](#). Closing date for consideration is June 24, 2022.



Holy Spirit Come

MULTI-CROSS CULTURAL REFERENCE GROUP
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

PENTECOST SERVICE

DATE: SUNDAY 5TH OF JUNE | WHEN: 2PM - 4PM
KANGAROO POINT UNITING CHURCH
40/48 Linton St, Kangaroo Point QLD 4169

Welcome to bring a plate to share at afternoon tea after the service