



# 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

## NOTICES:

### Face to Face Services Services 21<sup>st</sup> May

Montville: 8.15am Service  
Maleny: 9.45 am Service  
Maleny: 5.30pm Friendship  
Dinner@Maleny  
Palmwoods: 10am Communion  
Service

### RCL Year A Readings (Easter 7)

Acts 1:6-14  
Ps 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
Jn 17:1-11

### Face to Face Services Services 28<sup>th</sup> May

Montville: 8.15am Service  
Maleny: 9.45 am Service  
Palmwoods: 3pm Reflections in  
the Garden  
**Maleny: 11am Congregational  
Meeting**

### RCL Year A Readings (Pentecost Sunday)

Acts 2:1-21; Num 11:24-30  
Ps 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Cor 12:3b-13  
Jn 20:19-23; Jn 7:37-39

### COMING UP NEXT WEEK

**Wednesday** – 8.30am Meditation at  
Maleny Church

**Friday** – 1.30pm KYB at Maleny UC

**Sunday** – 11am Congregational  
Meeting @ Maleny

### Through the Week

- Various Connect Groups meet.
- Pilates and Yoga Groups also meet through the Week. Check with Peter C for contacts.

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**MONTVILLE REFLECTION GALLERY DISPLAY**  
The new reflection features Rev. Geraldine Wheeler's series of 10 works illustrating the poem *Canticles of the Creatures* by St Francis of Assisi.

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### UPDATE ON DIOCESE OF AMRITSAR

Members of the Maleny Congregation have supported the Uniting Church's relationship with the Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, for many years. In 2020, that relationship was formalised as an activity of the Qld Synod under the continuing name of Dostana ("deep and abiding friendship"). After 3 years of pandemic restrictions and concerns, we are ready to get our exchange visits back on track.

To celebrate this, we're having a public launch on Tuesday 20 June at the Uniting Church Centre, Auchenflower. An online link is available. Dinner will be provided.

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The launch event will include information about our next visit to India in November this year and the next visit of members of the Diocese to Australia in 2024.

It would be great to have members of the Maleny Congregation join us in this celebration either in-person or online. Full details are available below.

The Dostana Board expresses its sincere gratitude to the supporters of this important relationship from the Maleny Congregation.

If you can't attend in person, please join us [online via this link](#).

If you plan to attend in person, please RSVP by Tuesday, June 13, at [dostana.uniting@gmail.com](mailto:dostana.uniting@gmail.com).

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E: [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)



Blackall Range UC inc: Maleny UC, Montville UC, Palmwoods UC.

# Heavens Above!

Acts 1:6-14

Although our view of the universe today is very different from that held by people in biblical times, we still commonly refer to heaven as being up there. We don't really think that heaven is a place above the sky, but by talking that way we imply that heaven is on another level of existence, superior to that which we ordinarily experience. When we refer to heaven as a place, we know that it is not a physical location; it is, rather, a spiritual reality. While the biblical idea of heaven is that it is God's home, God's home is not physical, but spiritual.

God's kingdom is a realm of the spirit. I find it more helpful to think of life in heaven as life on a different dimension or in a different state of consciousness rather than as a place. Psychologically, it feels distant or close depending upon our state of mind and spirit at the time. And it's not just imaginary or speculative. Whenever we feel a sense of God's peace, acceptance and forgiveness, we experience a little of the heaven experience. Whenever we know the love of God holding us, embracing us, we get a taste of heaven.

So how do we interpret the Ascension story of Acts 1:6-14? Jesus is not removed from us into some far distant place, but rather he is a spiritual reality, one with God; invisible, but present; asking us to be his witnesses wherever we are whether it be at home or in some far distant place. The Spirit of God and of his Christ is with us empowering and directing us in that task.

Are we responding?

- Contrast the biblical idea of heaven with the ideas popularly held by people today?
- Which most strongly influences your idea of heaven: the biblical view or popular opinion?
- What, in Acts 1:6-14, suggests that we are to be Christ's witnesses wherever we are?
- Traditionally Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost are the great festival days of the Christian calendar. Which is most important for you? Why?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

## IN BRIEF

- **Friendship Dinner@Maleny** – Maleny's Sunday night shared meal on the 3rd Sunday of the month is being enjoyed by all who attend. It is good to relax and get to know each other better. So, join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> May at 5pm. to share your food and conversation.
- **May 28<sup>th</sup> – 5pm Pentecost Sunday** Combined Churches of the Sunshine Coast Service @ the Good Life Community Church, Buderim
- **More on India** Limited spots are still available for Qld Synod's upcoming trip to India in November 2023 AND/OR Find out how you can participate in hosting members of the Diocese of Amritsar during their visit to Australia in 2023. Email - [dostana.uniting@gmail.com](mailto:dostana.uniting@gmail.com)
- **LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP -CANCER FUND MORNING TEA** – We would like to thank everyone who attended our 'Cancer Fund' morning tea on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Just to let you know we raised \$510. Thanks also to all the ladies who help clean up afterwards, Marnie, Lorraine, Linda and Patricia.

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### Ministry Contacts:

**Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman**

**0490 421 874**

[minister@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:minister@ourcommonlife.org.au)

**Friday off-day.**

### Church Office Contact:

**Peter C mobile: 0458 263 322**

**Hours: Tuesday 9 am to 12 noon**

**Email: [admin@ourcommonlife.org.au](mailto:admin@ourcommonlife.org.au)**

**Community Pastor: Pastor Kay Nixon on**

**mobile 0412 539020**

[kaynrxn43@gmail.com](mailto:kaynrxn43@gmail.com)

**Internet: <http://www.ourcommonlife.org.au>**

### For Church Hall Hire:

<https://ourcommonlife.org.au/calendar-hall-hire/#>

**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.**

**I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him." (Lamentations 3 vs 24)**