



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 28th May

Montville: 8.15am Service
Maleny: 9.45 am Service
Palmwoods: 3pm Reflections in the Garden

Maleny: 11am Congregational Meeting to consider final MDF

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

Face to Face Services Services 4th June

Montville: 8.15am Service
Maleny: 9.45 am Communion Service
Palmwoods: 10am Family Service

RCL Year A Readings (Trinity Sunday)

Gn 1:1 – 2:4a
Ps 8 2
Cor 13:11-13
Mt 28:16-20

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Sunday – 11am Congregational Meeting @ Maleny or join by Zoom
Wednesday – 8.30am Meditation at Maleny Church

Friday – 1.30pm KYB at Maleny UC
Through the Week

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

THE NEW VINE

The New Vine Winter 29th Edition is out!. Make sure to grab a copy!
Big thank you to Graham and Muriel and all the contributors.

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.

IN BRIEF

- **Act for Peace** – Blackall Range Uniting Church donated \$6,300 to the work of Act for Peace through the Christmas Bowl Appeal last year. Janet Cousens, CEO Act for Peace, has written to thank the Blackall Range Uniting Church for our generous donation to their important work. A certificate and the letter are displayed on the notice board.
- **May 28th – 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

What, then, is the meaning of Christ's "ascension into heaven"?

Joseph Ratzinger 1975

It expresses our belief that in Christ human nature, the humanity in which we all share, has entered into the inner life of God in a new and hitherto unheard-of way. It means that man has found an everlasting place in God. Heaven is not a place beyond the stars; rather, it is something much greater, something that requires far more audacity to assert: heaven means that man now has a place in God.

The basis for this assertion is the interpenetration of humanity and divinity in the crucified and exalted man Jesus. Christ, the man who is in God and eternally one with God, is at the same time God's abiding openness to all men. Thus Jesus himself is what we call "heaven": heaven is not a place, but a person, the person of him in whom God and man are forever and inseparably one. And we go to heaven and enter into heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him. In this sense, "ascension into heaven" can be something that happens in our everyday lives.

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

Different, but Not So Different

2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

As Jesus reminded the woman that he met at a well in Samaria, God is spirit. It follows that God is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). It also follows that we do not limit God to the restrictions of time and space under which we live.

God is in heaven, yet present in all existence. God is within us, yet God comes to us. God is separate from us, yet God is the foundation for our lives. God is almighty although not everything that happens does so according to God's will. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, yet God is ever changing according to our circumstances. God is beyond all human imagining, beyond any form of representation, beyond all human limitation, yet God was uniquely incarnate in one, historical, human person.

God speaks although God has no mouth; God acts although God has no body. God is one, yet a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In Christian theology the term Trinity was adopted around the third century describing the One who was three, three-in-one, yet not three gods – three persons, one godhead.

God is not a person as human beings are persons, although God is personal. Truly God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8). God is known, not as knowledge, but as presence and power. We cannot lay hold of God; God lays hold of us. God is different from us, yet not so different that we cannot bask in God's presence, revel in the work that God gives us to do, praise God for the goodness that surrounds us and trust God healing, renewing, saving and sustaining love.

- What restrictions are placed upon us as creatures bound by time and space?
- What are some of the ways in which we limit God?
- What is meant by saying that God is personal while not being a person as we know persons?
- How helpful do you find the doctrine of the Trinity for your faith and life?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

PENTECOST PRAYER

O wind of God, come bend us, break us,

Till humbly we confess our need;

Then in your tenderness remake us,

Revive, restore: for this we plea."

TIS 409 vs 2

../ **Ascension** continued from previous page ..

Some reflection questions:

How different is this from your understanding of heaven?

Does Ratzinger's understanding of heaven accommodate a bodily resurrection?

If you could ask Ratzinger one question about his understanding, what would it be?

Neighbourhood Centre Appeal

The MNC could do with some of the following – Blankets & towels; Tins of Lentils; Tins of Tomato; Tins of soup & packets of soup; Pasta sauce; Toiletries and winter cloths for men. Please drop donations to the Neighbourhood Centre or for food stuff, the basket in Maleny Church.

ZOOM LINK FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 28TH MAY AT 11AM

Time: May 28, 2023 11:00 AM Brisbane
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8241605469?pwd=aBuBI6yr2jGH4UGsbRHdnatcURuN9O.1>

Meeting ID: 824 160 5469

Passcode: sn7W3g

Ministry Contacts:

Minister: Rev Liena Hoffman
0490 421 874

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

**Community Pastor: Pastor Kay Nixon on
mobile 0412 539020**

kaynyn43@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.