



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 17th December 2023

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

RCL Year A Readings (Advent 3)

Is 61:1-4, 8-11
Ps 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Face to Face Services Services 24th December 2023

Montville: 8.15am Worship
Maleny: 9.45am Worship
Maleny: 7pm Carols Service
Palmwoods: 3.30pm Reflections
in the Garden

RCL Year A Readings (Advent 4)

2 Sm 7:1-11,16
Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4,19-26
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Open Daily - New Display at
Montville's Reflection Gallery
Sunday 17th – 5.30pm Maleny
Friendship Dinner. Bring a plate to
share.

Wednesday – Christmas Lights
and Tree Festival, Maleny UC 7
– 9pm

Thursday - Christmas Lights
and Tree Festival, Maleny UC 7
– 9pm

Friday – Christmas Lights and
Tree Festival, Maleny UC 7 –
9pm

Saturday - Christmas Lights
and Tree Festival, Maleny UC 7
– 9pm

CHRISTMAS EVE @ MALENY

Please remember that there is an evening service on
Sunday 24th December, starting at 7.00pm and
finishing by 8.00pm.

This service is a combination of the Christmas Story
and Christmas singing with the focus theme being
“Love”. It will be aimed at families so if you are able,
please come along and bring your family.

CHRISTMAS@MALENY

**The Maleny Christmas Lights and Tree
Festival** this year will be held from Wednesday
December 20 – Saturday 23rd, 7pm to 9pm
daily. As well as the lights and trees, we will be
holding a ‘**MINI-MARKET**’ to sell food stuff,
craft and plants to visitors.

A big thankyou to the crowd at our working bee
last weekend. And, thanks in advance of those
who are planning to turn up on Wednesday and
Saturday, this week.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES 2023

Montville – 8am for a combined Christmas Day
Service with the Range Church.

Palmwoods – 9am Christmas Day Service.

Maleny – 8am Christmas Day Service

MONTVILLE REFLECTION GALLERY DISPLAY

Montville has a new display .. [the Bush Christmas](#).

Earlier this year the congregation at Montville
decided that again this year for Christmas we would
have a theme in the church for Christmas of a Bush
Christmas. Are there things that come out of our
Bush culture that can help us think about the birth of
Jesus? Are there things in nature that help us reflect
on the wonderful new life God offers to us in Jesus?

The display features wonderful banners that
celebrate the Christmas story .. with a twist.

E: admin@ourcommonlife.org.au

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

Release from Bondage

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11.

We long for peace and happiness, but have you noticed that it is the times of defeat and sadness that shape our lives most profoundly. Bushfires, Gallipoli, cyclones, droughts, world wars, economic depression – these have shaped our Australian self-understanding rather than the safe and easy times. So it was for ancient Israel. It was the experience of slavery in Egypt and exile in Babylon that stood out most clearly in their collective memory. These were times when they were aware of God's saving grace most keenly for out of these situations God rescued them.

Then the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus is sometimes represented as another Exodus or Release from Captivity. In his preaching on Isaiah 61 in the Nazareth synagogue, Jesus described his ministry as release from Babylonian exile. In using this comparison, Jesus implied that the human race is in captivity to Satan, but his great announcement was that through him God was bringing deliverance to all.

Why continue to live in bondage then when we have been set free? Why plod along under the load of our sinfulness when we have been redeemed? Why continue with violence and greed when the way of peace and justice is opened up for us? And as the spirit of the Lord is upon us, we are sent to bring the good news about salvation to all who struggle under the burden of obligations, political and economic oppression, addictions to self-serving interests and to pleasure, imprisonment by their own habits and cultural mores. The Lord who loves justice and hates robbery and wrongdoing calls us to model in our daily lives the Gospel that we preach.

- Is it true in your own experience that it is the times of defeat and sadness that have shaped your life most profoundly?
- Great writing, like that in Isaiah 61, while coming out of a particular situation, release of the Israelites from captivity in Babylon, can be relevant to other situations as well. Can you think of other writings that, while written out of a particular situation can be applied more generally?
- This passage is all about deliverance. From what has God delivered you? From what does our community need to be delivered?
- How are you modelling the Gospel in your daily life?

Rev Ron Potter

Piula Publications

Blackall Range Uniting Church acknowledges the first peoples

who are the traditional owners of the land upon which we live and worship.

Staying safe during heatwaves

Heatwaves are a serious issue, causing more harm than any other natural disaster in Australia. Seniors are especially vulnerable to their effects.

Prepare for hot summers in Queensland with [free resources](#) courtesy of Bluecare.

BlueCare's heat health resources were co-funded by the Queensland Government and created in partnership with Griffith University.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

You may be wondering how much we earn from Containers for Change each year in Maleny?

This year it is \$482. Amazing how those 10cents add up!!

Thank you Stan Mc for the effort you put in for this program.

MINISTRY CONTACTS:

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Community Pastor: Pastor Kay Nixon

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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

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