



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

19 April 2020

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## John 20:19-31 (NIV)

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

### Jesus Appears to Thomas



<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### The Purpose of John's Gospel

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9



A wise man listens to advice - Proverbs 12:15

## John 20:19-31

The disciples were behind closed doors - self-isolating.

They weren't worried about catching a virus; they were concerned that the Jewish authorities would come after them because Jesus' body had disappeared from the tomb. They were afraid they they would be held responsible.

Ten of the disciples were together. Suddenly, Jesus was with them. They could not believe it!

Jesus was with them, speaking to them, teaching them, sharing their company, their concerns, their joy.

Thomas wasn't present, and would not believe the disciples when they told him the news. Obviously Thomas was choosing to protect himself from feeling let down once again - he wasn't game to believe such wonderful news.

A week later, the same thing happened. The disciples, still afraid, were together again, and Jesus came and stood with them. Immediately, Thomas believed.

In this time of self-isolation, we don't have the opportunity to choose to isolate with our friends. Most of us are alone.

Yet Jesus can be with us, just as He was with His disciples. He may not show up physically, but if we choose to notice, Jesus is here for us. His presence is real today, yesterday, and every day since His resurrection.

Jesus is alive, and is with us always! ~ Meg



May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. ~ Nelson Mandela

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- Thanks to God for perfect autumn weather. We also pray for the people around us who are too preoccupied to notice such blessings.
- We pray for each of our congregation members.
- We pray for world leaders, that they will show wisdom in their decisions at this time.
- We pray for grieving families.

22 April  
28 April

~ Mavis Chaffey  
~ Jean Stratford



Autumn is a perfect time to do:

Something **NEW**

Something **BOLD**

Something **BEAUTIFUL.**

May God Bless You.

~ Anon



### Meg's Musings

Easter is about new life.

In the northern hemisphere it becomes obvious as buds begin to show, snow begins to melt and chicks and baby rabbits abound.

For us, we need to look a little bit more closely to find examples of new life in the early autumn - but they are there, if only we will open our eyes to them.

The recent steady rains and pleasant weather have brought about changes in our gardens.

Freesias and Jonquils are pushing their way through the damp, moist soil.

Beulah has seen growth in the spinach plants and sweet-peas in her garden.

Other plants are recovering well from the prolonged drought, and lawns are looking greener than they have for such a long time.

New life is abounding in the gardens; I hope that it is also present in your heart.

Blessings from Meg



As our awareness and consciousness grows, our body may have difficulties keeping up the high pace.

So rather than lamenting it, why not keep YOUR spirit high and make fun of it?

~Anon

### Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Mavis Chaffey is knitting lovely purses to add to our boxes.

Beulah is knitting bears.

It would be great to hear what others are doing.

Things that are suggested to include in the boxes are:

marble bags, skirts or shorts and fabric bags.

Please do not go shopping.

I'm sure that we can dream up some wonderful crafty ideas to while away our time of isolation.

~ Meg



**OXLEY TRANSPORT** is still available for eligible persons for transport to medical appointments etc. PH: 6762 1122

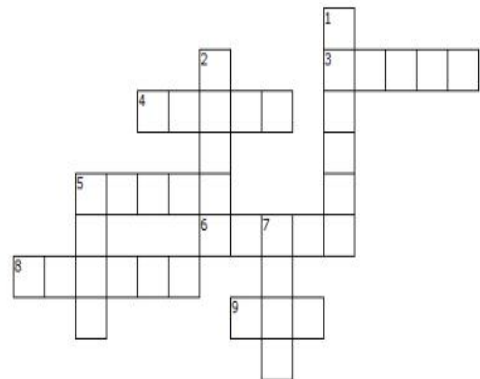
### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



#### ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

#### DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies." ~ Katie McGahan

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus