



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

6 December 2020

Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,

² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NIV)

Comfort for God’s People

⁴⁰ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,

and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,

and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (NIV)

¹ You, LORD, showed favour to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.



⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—

but let them not turn to folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

¹³ Righteousness goes before him

and prepares the way for his steps.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- John Murray has had surgery in Newcastle this week. We pray for a good recovery.
- We pray for Marg.
- We pray for the strength and resilience to withstand the heat which we have experienced over the past fortnight.
- As lock-down in Australia is phased out, we pray that everyone will continue to take health precautions.
- We pray that people will understand the true meaning of Christmas after a year when so much has changed.

Meg's Musings

Last Tuesday there was a news item about the amazing results being received from a new CSIRO radio telescope constructed in Western Australia.

It is not a single telescope, but thirty-six separate dishes, each working together.

Three million galaxies were mapped during the first fortnight. Many of these galaxies have never been seen before.

For me, it speaks of the utter wonder of God's creation. I wonder what use scientists will make of this information. Will their discoveries lead to the betterment of mankind? Two thousand years ago, the Three Wise Men were able to make wonderful use of the star they saw. They followed it, and it led them to Jesus.

What could be better than that!

Blessings from Meg



2 Peter 3:8-15 (NIV)

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^[a]

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

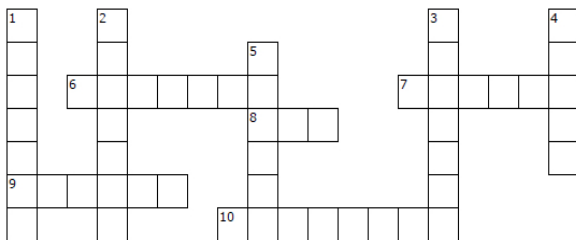
¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

A Messenger Sent from God

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." Mark 1:2 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

6. To pardon someone who has done something wrong
7. The river where John the Baptist baptized people
8. To do something that is against God's law
9. To confess and turn away from sin
10. Having no bends or curves

DOWN

1. To make things ready
2. Having many bends and curves
3. A person who speaks for God, or one who tells what will happen in the future
4. A sweet, sticky substance made by bees
5. A dry region with very few plants

It's the essence of the Christmas gift that counts.~ Sonali Pathak



Prepare ye the way of the Lord.



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|-------------|------------------------------|
| 6 December | ~ Jane Morris |
| 26 December | ~ Pat Johnston |
| 28 December | ~ Myra Forrester |
| 29 December | ~ Lorabelle Whitten |
| 11 January | ~ Ernie Thompson |
| 17 January | ~ Jan Parker |
| 24 January | ~ Phyllis Bylund |
| 30 January | ~ Trevor Forrester |
| 31 January | ~ Margaret Crowell & Cameron |
| 31 January | ~ Kevin Hoyt |



CHURCH SERVICES

- 13 December 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan
 13 December 11am **West** ~ Meg Mangan
 20 December 11am **West** ~ Sue Budden
 25 December **Combined Service**



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



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