



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

20 December 2020

## Romans 16:25–27 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

## Luke 1:26–38 (NIV)

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

## Luke 1:46–55 (NIV)

### Mary’s Song

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me

blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great

things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear

him,

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his

arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in

their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their

thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his

descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

## Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16: Psalm 89:1-4,19-26



Sometimes the best Christmas present is remembering what you've already got. ~anon

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





### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the billions of people who are unaware of why we celebrate Christmas.
- We pray for Jim Newton who is out of hospital, and continuing to recover from a fall.
- We pray for Judy Nowland who has been in the rehab at Toronto Private Hospital. Judy and John look forward to Judy being home in time for Christmas.
- We give thanks that Phyll Byland has now settled into BUPA aged care really well.
- We give thanks that Covid19 vaccines are being given to the people in the northern hemisphere who need it the most. We pray that the distribution goes smoothly.

### Meg's Musings

Agapanthus, or "Star of Bethlehem" are coming into bloom around Tamworth. The dry November weather seemed to delay the flowering, but the rain earlier this month has helped them to bloom. Maybe further rain this month will mean that there will be a dazzling display in January. "Star of Bethlehem" seems a very apt name for the blooms because they are at their best around Christmas time. Their dazzling, large blue or white blooms draw our attention, as the real star of Bethlehem did for the wise men, and must have done for others at that time. What are the things which draw your attention at Christmas time, when so many things seem almost to be shouting out, "Look at me"!!!

Blessing from Meg



One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." ~ Andy Rooney (1919)



### CHURCH SERVICES



**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Worship at 9:00am at Hallsville.

The service will be relaxed, informal, and definitely child-friendly.

Please come, and bring your friends and families too.

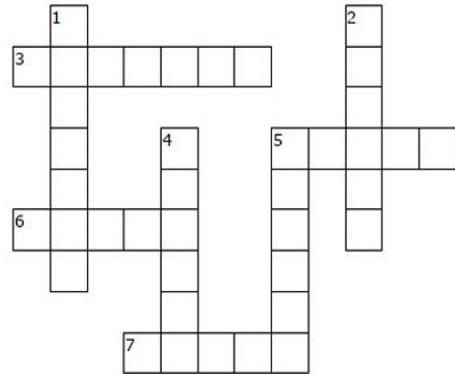
Anyone needing a lift to the Christmas Day service please ring Meg on 0476 375 989

At this stage, no singing without a mask....but you never know when the rules may change!

## An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



#### ACROSS

- To be joined together as husband and wife
- A heavenly being; a messenger for God
- The son who was born to Mary
- A very young person especially between infancy and youth

#### DOWN

- The name of the angel who appeared to Mary
- A young unmarried woman; a maiden
- The man to whom Mary was engaged to marry
- To be filled with fear

Dashing through the bush  
In a rusty Holden Ute  
Kicking up the dust  
Esky in the boot  
Kelpie by my side  
Singing Christmas songs  
It's Summer time and I am in  
My singlet, shorts and thongs

Oh! Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells  
Jingle all the way  
Christmas in Australia  
On a scorching summer's day  
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells  
Christmas time is beaut  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a rusty Holden Ute.

#### 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

