



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

5 December 2021

Malachi 3:1-4 (NIV)

³ "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Luke 1:68-79 (NIV)

⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV)

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." ~ Max Lucado



OP Shop @ Hallsville.

Open Fridays and Saturdays
from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

CHURCH SERVICES

12 December 8.30 am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

12 December 11 am **West** ~ Meg Mangan



Christmas Day Service

Hallsville 9am

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

This will take place after church on 12th December, and will be held at either Marg and Doug Crowell's home, weather permitting, or at Hallsville Church.

All members of the Parish are most welcome.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for John Murray who recently spent five days in hospital.
- We give thanks that the Op Shop at Hallsville is now operating.
- We continue to pray for Bronwyn Monckton as she gets over her heart attack.
- We give thanks that the number of Covid19 cases in the Hunter-New England region has declined significantly.
- We pray for those whose property has been rain or flood affected.



Megs Musings

Our world is constantly changing. Christmas last year was different to any that we have experienced before. Christmas this year promises to be different again, with dire warnings of shortages of all sorts of goods. Carols were an important part to the lead-up to Christmas. We sang them at school, and in church for many weeks leading up to Christmas.

The transition to "canned" music in supermarkets and shopping malls changed that. At first, it was carols performed in very individualistic ways.

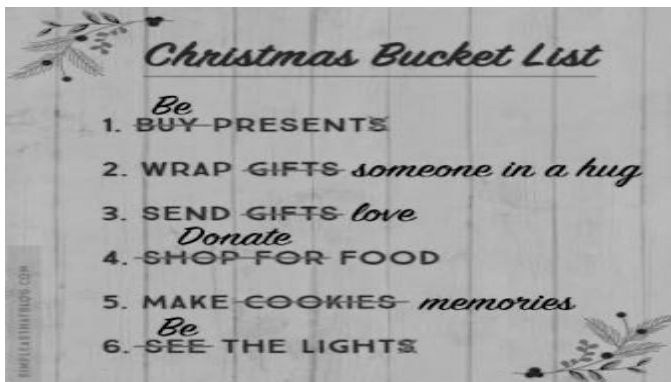
Gradually however, it has become a permanent loop of songs such as "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas", "Jingle Bells", and "Frosty the snowman".

The "real" carols seem to have been forgotten. Maybe Christ has been forgotten too, as the focus has increasingly become gift-buying, decorating, and the food and drink we consume.

At one time, nothing was open on Christmas Day - not even service stations or cafes. Our world has become much faster-paced, and more commercial.

Can we go back to a time when people looked for meaning in celebrations - where what we celebrated was more important than how we celebrated?

Blessings from Meg



- 6 December ~ Jane Morris
- 26 December ~ Patrick Johnston
- 28 December ~ Myra Forrester
- 29 December ~ Lorabelle Whitten



Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

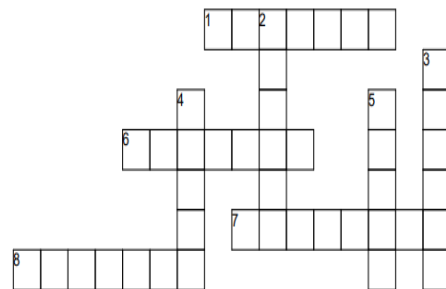
⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.”

Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6



HORIZONTAL

1. To grant a pardon for sin.
6. Having bends, curves, or angles.
7. Having no bends or curves.
8. To make things ore oneself ready.

VERTICAL

2. To turn away from one's sins.
3. Having a surface free from roughness
4. What we use to speak.
5. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface

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 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



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