



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

19 December 2021

Luke 1: 26 - 38 (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold



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

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

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

³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ 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^[a] the Son of God.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "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

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God
my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me
blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great
things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his
arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in
their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their
thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."



I think as you grow older
your Christmas list gets shorter,
because the gifts you want
can't be bought. ~ unknown



*He who has not Christmas in his heart will
never find it under a tree.* ~ unknown

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Luke 1:46b-55 **Psalm 80:1-7**

Hebrews 10:5-10



26 December ~ Patrick Johnston
28 December ~ Myra Forrester
29 December ~ Lorabelle Whitten



Christmas Day Service

Hallsville 9am

All welcome!




A big thank-you to Marg and Doug for hosting the Christmas Lunch. It was a very happy, friendly occasion. Everyone enjoyed the feast! A nice, relaxed atmosphere, good company and good food.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks we have enjoyed another year worshipping together. We pray that next year offers us far wider range of fellowship opportunities.
- We pray for people making decisions about limiting the spread of Covid19.
- We pray that the world will pay attention to the true meaning of Christmas. 
- May each of us be well enough to enjoy a blessed, and a family-centred Christmas.
- We give thanks to God for all gifts, great and small - and the wonderful gift of Jesus.

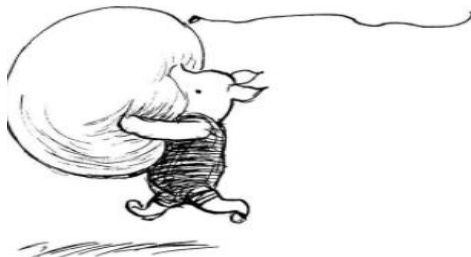
Megs Musings

Over the past two years, we have had long periods at church when we have been unable to sing, due to Covid19 regulations. It has made a real change to the way that we worship, and how we feel during worship. Music has been a part of worship for thousands of years. We read of King David singing and dancing in praise of God. In the first few chapters of Luke, we read of Mary's song of praise as she met with Elizabeth. We read of Zechariah's prophesy on the birth of John. We don't know quite what form it took, but it is easy to imagine Zechariah singing out the words for sheer joy. Angels sang to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth, inspiring the shepherds to go into Bethlehem seeking the baby they had been told about. As we lift our voices to God in song, are hearts are also lifted. Let's pray that next year we are able to sing in worship once more.

Blessings from Meg



Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.



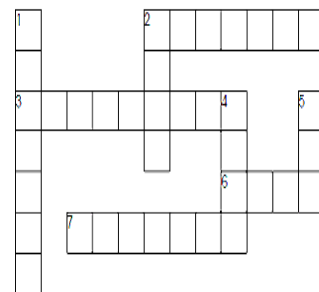
Micah 5:2-5a (NIV)

- ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
- ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
- ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,

The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
Luke 1:45 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

2. To accept as true
3. The mother of John the Baptist
6. The mother of Jesus
7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

DOWN

1. Highly favored by God
2. An infant; a young child
4. The place where a person lives
5. The feeling of great happiness

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



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