



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

4 December 2022

## Romans 15:4-13 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

<sup>5</sup> May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

<sup>8</sup> Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors.

<sup>9</sup> He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

"For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And in another place it is written,

"Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles."

<sup>11</sup> And yet again,

"Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles.

Praise him, all you people of the earth."

<sup>12</sup> And in another place Isaiah said,

"The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles.

They will place their hope on him."

<sup>13</sup> **I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## Matthew 3:1-12 (NLT)

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

<sup>3</sup> In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was,

<sup>2</sup> "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near

" <sup>3</sup> The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John.

<sup>6</sup> And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?"

<sup>8</sup> Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

<sup>9</sup> Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.

<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

<sup>12</sup> He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

## 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

Sue Budden                      Daryl Lush



Christmas, my child, is love in action. ~ Dale Evans

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the people affected by floods,
- And also those waiting for flood waters to arrive.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine.
- As Christmas approaches, we pray for peace on earth.
- We give thanks for the little things in life that mean so much to us.



Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day. ~ Helen Steiner Rice

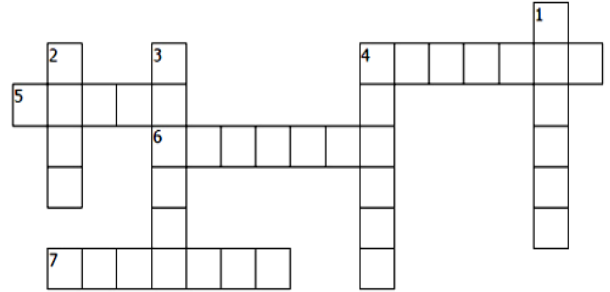
### Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST



#### ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

#### DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

### Meg's Musings

Last Tuesday there was a computer-generated meeting of the committee formed to find new ministers for Tamworth. The group has been meeting (via computer) from time to time for over a year now.

We have reached the point where two ministers have been interviewed - via our computers. The process is continuing.

Covid19 has changed the way we operate, and the way we interact with other people. "Zoom", the most common program to facilitate computer-generated meetings, is used by millions of people each day.

What we hope for, and expect of others, and how people undertake their roles has changed substantially over the past three years.

As well as working out how our three parishes share two ministers, other questions about ministry are bound to arise.

Christian love, respect, and understanding will be needed as we attempt to find answers.

#### Blessing from Meg



Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. ~ Calvin

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

~ Cathy Guisewite



### Christmas Bowl

#### Give Hope

Share God's love with a refugee going hungry this Christmas.

Since 1949, compassionate Christians like you have followed Rev Frank Byatt's legacy, coming together each Christmas across Australia and the world to provide safety in exile for people forced from their homes by conflict and disaster. Your gift through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners to meet urgent needs and help create a world where uprooted people have a safe place to belong.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:  
Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



### CHURCH SERVICES

11 December ~ 11am ~ Evelyn Keane



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month ~ Luncheon @ West

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month ~ Markets @ Hallsville



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville  
Open 9:30 to 1:00pm  
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

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