



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

11 December 2022

## Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)

### Joy of the Redeemed

**35** The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
 the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
 Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
 it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
 The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
 the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
 they will see the glory of the LORD,  
 the splendour of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
 steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
 "Be strong, do not fear;  
 your God will come,  
 he will come with vengeance;  
 with divine retribution  
 he will come to save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
 and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
 Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
 and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
 the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
 In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
 grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
 it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
 it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
 The unclean will not journey on it;  
 wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
 nor any ravenous beast;  
 they will not be found there.  
 But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
 They will enter Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
 Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
 and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backward.

## 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> or 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."



Let us have music for Christmas.  
 Sound the trumpet of joy and  
 rebirth; let each of us try, with  
 a song in our hearts, to bring  
 peace to men on earth."

~ Mildred L. Jarrell

### Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10



### 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



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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Fay Monckton's family as they mourn a family member.
- We pray for peace, wisdom and understanding for world leaders.
- We pray for those people in South Australia who are expecting floods at Christmas time.
- We give thanks for the parish service, lunch and fellowship experienced last Sunday.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine preparing to experience a very different Christmas.



### Meg's Musings

I recently came across this quote which I thought summed things up nicely.

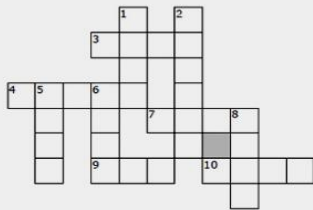
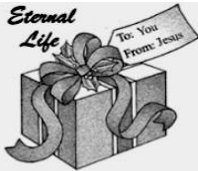
"The risen Christ, who meets us in our tears, calls us to be his presence in a deeply wounded world. He calls us always to follow him to those places where people are struggling and in need, and to share in his ministry of wiping away their tears."

At Christmas time we mostly share happy tears, but for the people who are feeling sad, a listening ear is always appreciated.

**Blessing from Meg**

## The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)



#### ACROSS

- 3. To receive sound using your ears
- 4. Unable to see
- 7. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
- 9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
- 10. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

#### DOWN

- 1. Not living
- 2. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
- 5. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
- 6. Information or reports about recent events
- 8. Unable to hear

### Matthew 11:2-11 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus,

<sup>3</sup> "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting,<sup>1</sup> or should we keep looking for someone else?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— <sup>5</sup> the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

<sup>6</sup> And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?"

<sup>8</sup> Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces.

<sup>9</sup> Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!"

**Your children need your presence more than your presents. ~ Jesse Jackson**



What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men?

- They would have asked directions,
- arrived on time,
- helped deliver the baby,
- cleaned the stable,
- made a casserole,
- and brought practical gifts, and
- there would be peace on earth.

### CHURCH SERVICES

18 December ~ 8.30am ~ Meg Mangan

18 December ~ 11am ~ Meg Mangan



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