



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

3 December 2023

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Mark 13:24-37 (NLT)

²⁴ “At that time, after the anguish of those days,

the sun will be darkened,
the moon will give no light,

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will
be shaken.

²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

²⁸ “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door.

³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

³² “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

³³ And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

³⁴ “The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return.

³⁵ You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak.

³⁶ Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. ³⁷ I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!”

Isaiah 64:1- 9 (NLT)

¹ Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down!
How the mountains would quake in your presence!

² As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil,
your coming would make the nations tremble.

Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame!

³ When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations.
And oh, how the mountains quaked!

⁴ For since the world began, no ear has heard
and no eye has seen a God like you,
who works for those who wait for him!

⁵ You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways.
But you have been very angry with us,
for we are not godly.

We are constant sinners;
how can people like us be saved?

⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.
Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall,
and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

⁷ Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy.
Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins.

⁸ And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

⁹ Don’t be so angry with us, LORD. Please don’t remember our sins forever. Look at us, we pray,
and see that we are all your people.



Those who judge will never understand, and those who understand will never judge.

~ W Kanadi



IN OUR PRAYERS



- We pray for peace on earth this Christmas and always.
- We pray that Hugo's health continues to improve.
- We pray for people for whom Christmas is a time of sadness or loneliness.
- We thank God for the rain, and the way that everything is looking so much greener and fresher.
- We pray for our grieving friends.

Meg's Musings

Today I received a reminder that my Working With Children accreditation needs to be renewed. That involves filling out forms and providing four lots of identification. That's a lot!

I'm happy to comply with the rules which the government set up to ensure that children are kept safe.

People can only feel safe in God's love if we show them God's love in a caring and respectful way.

Fortunately, we don't all need to go through the procedure of a Working with Children check.

We do all need to show love in the ways, times, and places that God wants us to.

How do you show God's love to others?

Blessings from Meg



Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

The Birth of Jesus



2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.

² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.

⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.

⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Matthew 13:24-37

A father saw that his 11-year-old son was crying. He asked him. "What's the matter, son?" The young boy replied.

"My rich classmates mocked, called me son of a gardener. They said that my father lives only on the money he earns from watering and feeding plants for people"

The father paused for a moment, then said.

"Come with me son, let's plant some flowers. It might cheer you up"

He held his hand and walked him to the garden, then he took out some flower seeds, and said.

"Let's carry out an experiment. We will plant two flowers separately. I will care for one, and you will care for the other. I will water mine with clean water from the lake but you will water yours with dirty water from the pond. We shall see the outcome in the weeks to come"

The son was delighted as he joined his father in planting the flowers. It took them some days to finally germinate the flower seeds.

They cared for them respectively and watched them grow. Later on, the father said.

"Look at the two flowers and tell me your observation"

The boy responded.

"My flower looks better and healthier than yours. How is that even possible when your water is cleaner?"



The father smiled, then said.

"That's because dirty water doesn't stop a plant from growing, rather it serves as organic fertilizer to help it flourish.

You see son, there are some people who put you down in life, mock your dreams, and throw dirt on you.

Always remember that there's nothing wrong with you, it is their ego they have to satisfy.

So, don't let the harsh words from people affect you, instead, let it encourage you into being a better person. And doing so, you will be like the plant and will flourish even in the midst of dirt like negativity and harsh words.

~ Justice Justice

From Rev Geoff Flynn

Lighting the Advent Candles with Children

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on texts from the Revised Common Lectionary, and is offered for general use with children, in public worship or at home.

At each successive lighting of the candles, all texts from the preceding lightings are read in addition to the text introduced that day.

At the beginning of each lighting of the candles:

We give thanks for the light of Christ,
shining in the lives of all God's people.

On the **First Sunday of Advent**, and at successive lightings:

With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah,
we watch and wait for the coming of Christ
who will bring light and peace to all the world. Light the first candle.



On the **Second Sunday of Advent**, and at successive lightings:

With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Light the second candle.

On the **Third Sunday of Advent**, and at successive lightings:

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice,
for the Mighty One has done great things for us.
How holy is God's name! Light the third candle.

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, and at successive lightings:

With Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
we tell the story of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem,
who came to save us, and is coming again in glory. Light the fourth candle.

On the **eve of Christmas, or on Christmas Day**:

With the choirs of angels, we sing:
"Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!" Light the centre candle.

On each occasion the lighting of the candles may be concluded with the following song, to the tune "Frere Jacques":

*Light of Jesus (echo: light of Jesus),
show the way (show the way).
Shine in us forever (shine in us forever);
this we pray (this we pray).*

~ Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1

Blessings Rev Geoff



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

**Peel Valley Congregation AGM
& Church Council meeting**

17th December at West Tamworth 11am
These meeting will be part of our service.



CHURCH SERVICES

10 December 11 am **West** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



Peel Valley CHRISTMAS LUNCH

10th December Hallsville 11 am
Peel Valley service and
lunch ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



**Peel Valley CHRISTMAS
EVE SERVICE**
24th December

11 AM Hallsville ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

Other Christmas services and activities

Southside have a Nativity Scene display on
Saturday, 2nd December, 9:00am - 3:00pm.

City Church Christmas Eve service will be led
by Rev Geoff Flynn on 24th December at
7:30pm

Southside Christmas Eve service will be led by
Rev Geoff Flynn on 24th December at 11:30pm

Southside Christmas Day service will be led by
Rev Geoff Flynn at 9:00am on Christmas Day.

*It will be the only Uniting Church service on
Christmas Day.*

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville



Open 9:30 to 1:00pm
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

4th Sunday of the month ~ Markets @ Hallsville



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 Daryl Lush



There's a Great Day Coming

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father." Mark 13:32 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Mark 13:24-32

G K K G C A W F H G J A Z B R
H U K L N S S O F T B N G J S
K N D O X W G T C Y U G E N T
D B B R E O I E A S Z E S N D
U X T Y C B L R R R F L K N K
M O O N L E B Z B H S S R S N
S H L A O K U N X E O T J J E
G G I S U G A T H E R U F Y M
T B Y F D E B N O Q Y D R S D
A A J L S B W P P R R H N S Z
D J W X Y O H V O G H E S G W
T F T Q N B G L W Z W D K E B
T Z X K D Q G O E B F S M Z D
X E N G X F H J R Z A X U E Q
G U H Y P A O V V Z R V F N I

GATHER	POWER	MOON	DAY
UNKNOWN	SUN	STARS	GLORY
HOUR	ANGELS	ELECT	ANGLES
CLOUDS	(SOME WORDS MAY APPEAR X2)		

Life may be hard, but resilient people are
harder. ~ anon