



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

10 December 2023

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Mark 1:1-8 (NLT)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began ² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

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

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals.

⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Peel Valley Congregation AGM & Church Council meeting

17th December at West Tamworth 11am

These meeting will be part of our service.



CHURCH SERVICES

17 December 11 am **West** ~ Marg Crowel



Jesus - THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NLT)

¹ “Comfort, comfort my people,”
says your God.

² “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Tell her that her sad days are gone
and her sins are pardoned.

Yes, the LORD has punished her twice over
for all her sins.”

³ Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting,
“Clear the way through the wilderness
for the LORD!

Make a straight highway through the
Wasteland for our God!

⁴ Fill in the valleys,
and level the mountains and hills.
Straighten the curves,
and smooth out the rough places.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
The LORD has spoken!”

⁶ A voice said, “Shout!”
I asked, “What should I shout?”

“Shout that people are like the grass.
Their beauty fades as quickly
as the flowers in a field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fade
beneath the breath of the LORD.
And so it is with people.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fade,
but the word of our God stands forever.”

⁹ O Zion, messenger of good news,
shout from the mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.
Shout, and do not be afraid.

Tell the towns of Judah,
“Your God is coming!”

¹⁰ Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in
power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.
See, he brings his reward with him as he
comes.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms,
holding them close to his heart.

He will gently lead the mother sheep with
their young.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for people impacted by the hot weather we're experiencing at the moment.
- We give thanks for Jesus' coming to earth.
- We give thanks that Hugo's health is improving.
- We pray for our families in the lead-up to Christmas.
- We pray for our war-torn world.



Meg's Musings

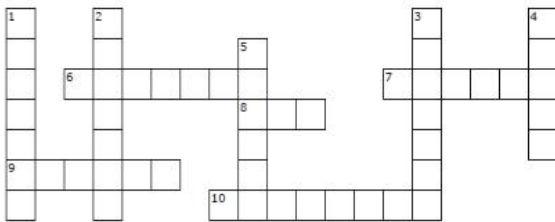
A question posed to our Advent study group this week was whether there is a place which is special to you? I imagine that most of us have memories of places which hold an important place in our hearts. I remember flying over the Southern Highlands on the day that my Dad died. The sandstone gorges around Bundanoon had been my Dad's special place, so it was wonderful to see them spread out below me. I was seeing them from a perspective that Dad would have enjoyed. I felt very close to my Dad in those moments. God gives us special moments, and places, when we need them... even when we are sitting in a plane full of strangers.

Blessings from Meg



A Messenger Sent from God

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way."
Mark 1:2 (NIV)
Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

6. To pardon someone who has done something wrong
7. The river where John the Baptist baptized people
8. To do something that is against God's law
9. To confess and turn away from sin
10. Having no bends or curves

DOWN

1. To make things ready
2. Having many bends and curves
3. A person who speaks for God, or one who tells what will happen in the future
4. A sweet, sticky substance made by bees
5. A dry region with very few plants

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



From Rev Geoff Flynn

As a consequence of reflecting on the prophets in the bible in preparation for last week's bible study I have been giving some thought to the question: What is great preaching?

Who are the great preachers you have heard? John K. Bergland asked several small churches and judging from the responses he received, the chief criterion for great preachers and great preaching is magnitude: great numbers of listeners, great feelings induced in the listeners, and great thoughts imparted to the listeners. When criteria like these are used to judge good preaching, it is easy to understand why the preacher in a small congregation, preaching to tens, rather than thousands feels defeated before they begin.

But ask yourself this. Is it possible for preachers to preach the gospel faithfully if the size of the crowd is the main judge of the preacher's quality? Surely good preaching is faithful to the testimony of the Church, its Bible, and its traditions. The message which is the Gospel creates the medium which is the preacher; if it doesn't the medium becomes the message and gets in the way of the Gospel. In other words, the preacher can all too easily draw attention to themselves rather than Christ. Preaching is powerful only when the preacher has something compelling to say and the members of the Congregation develop a hunger to hear the Word of God, and a genuine curiosity about how the relationship between the story of Jesus and its story.

Is God calling you to preach? Everyone has at least one good sermon in them.

God Bless, Rev Geoff



Peel Valley CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

11 AM Hallsville ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

Other Christmas Eve services

7:30pm **City Church** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

11:30pm **Southside** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

9:00am **Southside** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.



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