



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

17 December 2023

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful.

<sup>17</sup> Never stop praying.

<sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.

<sup>20</sup> Do not scoff at prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.

<sup>22</sup> Stay away from every kind of evil.

### Paul's Final Greetings

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

<sup>24</sup> God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

## John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony.

<sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.

### The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>19</sup> This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup> He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> "Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

<sup>22</sup> "Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the LORD's coming!'"

<sup>24</sup> Then the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"

<sup>26</sup> John told them, "I baptize with <sup>[d]</sup> water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize.

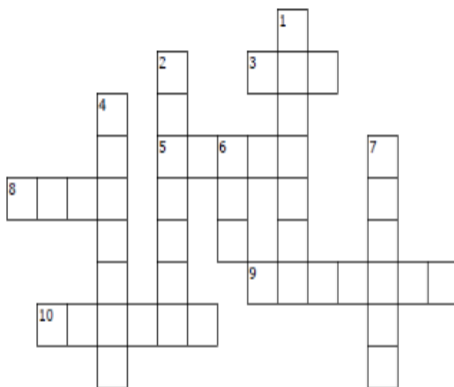
<sup>27</sup> Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

<sup>28</sup> This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

## The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



### ACROSS

3. An adult male human
5. A source of illumination, such as a lamp, or a lantern
8. The man sent from God to prepare the way for Jesus
9. To give evidence based on personal knowledge
10. To reply to a question

### DOWN

1. To immerse in water
2. To be convinced that something is true
4. To admit that something is true
6. The creator of the heavens, earth and its people
7. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets

### Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 Luke 1:46b-55

May the tears you cried in 2023 water the seeds you're planting in 2024.



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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Hugo, and for his family.
- We pray for families who have lost loved ones this year.
- We give thanks for the joy of Christmas.
- We pray for the many people faced with the realities of war.
- We pray for wisdom for our world leaders at this difficult time.



### Meg's Musings

This Christmas I thank God for my friends. Each is gifted in their own ways.

Some of my friends have a sunny disposition, and are always ready to smile, and to brighten up a cloudy day.

Some bring the gift of wisdom to our friendship.

Some are quite spiritual people, who point me towards God.

Some of my friends are very practical, and can see the easiest way around problems.

Many of my friends show a willingness to "go the extra mile" - always there, no matter what the issue may be.

This Christmas I thank God for my many friends.

They truly are gifts from God.

**Blessings from Meg**



Faith tells me that no matter what lies ahead of me **GOD** is already there.

I would like to see every single soldier on every single side, just take off your helmet, unbuckle your kit, lay down your rifle, and set down at the side of some shady lane, and say, nope, I aint a gonna kill nobody.

~ Woody Guthrie

### Peel Valley Congregation AGM & Church Council meeting

17th December at West Tamworth 11am

These meeting will be part of our service.



### 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

On the 7 th of December I had the privilege of attending the special assembly at the Timbumburi Primary School where the Superclub performed the Christmas story and I had the privilege of presenting a bible to each of the Year Six Students. At the wonderful Christmas lunch after the Service at Hallsville last Sunday I also learnt that the Peel Valley Congregation provides the Scripture materials for Timbumburi, Nemingha and Duri Public Schools. In other words, we are partnering with our Scripture teachers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with approximately 400 children each year. I thank God for the generosity of the Peel Valley Congregation, and I pray that God may guide us as to how we might continue to support and grow this vibrant ministry in 2024.

If you are feeling stressed and under pressure you can do one of two things. You can depend on yourself confident that your nervous system can take it or you can acknowledge your utter dependence on God and that without "Christ in you", you will inevitably fail. When we let go and embrace our weakness we discover our strength in Christ. It is then that we can discover the peace that is beyond all understanding. Unbelievers can never understand, even as they can never experience such continual lack of anxiety. But you can. May The fruit of the spirit is Peace be yours this Christmas.

**God Bless,  
Rev Geoff**



### *Holiday Wish List*

- Less gifts, more memories
- Less busyness, more peace
- Less stress, more joy
- Less chaos, more calm
- Less excess, more gratitude

### 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