



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

11 February 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

2 Kings 2:1-14 (NRSV)

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

2 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

.....continued

10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

13 He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

14 He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6



CHURCH SERVICES

14 February	5.30pm	City	~Rev Geoff Flynn
18 February	8.30am	Gowrie	~Meg Mangan
18 February	11am	West	~Meg Mangan
25 February	11am	West	~Graham Barwick

4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY

"With Jesus to Calvary"

Start - 27 February 7.30pm and 28 February 2pm

Contact Geoff 0421 338 202

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Beth Scorgie, whose surgery has been delayed by one week.
- We give thanks for some cooler weather.
- We celebrate with Southside on their 20th anniversary at Goonoo Goonoo Rd, and thank God for all that he has achieved within that congregation.
- We pray for peace for our war-weary world.

Mark 9:2-9 (NRSV) The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them.

⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

One day at a time is all we should be dealing with. We can't go back to yesterday and we can't predict tomorrow, so let's live for today and make it beautiful.

~ Kellys Treehouse

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."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



Meg's Musings

Next Tuesday is known as Pancake Tuesday. Its' origins lie way back in history.

In the past - before chocolate and other "exotic" items were available in Europe, people gave up many more basic items for Lent.

As a way of using up the last of their richer foods, people made pancakes.

These days, we have many more options on what to give up, or perhaps what to take up, for Lent.

But, unless we have Jesus at the heart of our decision, it becomes an exercise in futility.

If giving up, or taking up, something will bring us closer to Jesus, that is good.

If it makes us feel that we are missing out, or it is a burden, it comes between us and Jesus.



May we each draw closer to Jesus in this time of Lent,

Blessings from Meg

Words from Rev Geoff

At the beginning of the year God's voice called us to begin a journey with Jesus that would reveal God's presence through his authoritative teaching and miraculous healings. We hear God's voice again on this

Transfiguration Sunday – the last Sunday before the season of Lent - calling us to a disciplined life of prayer and fasting as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the place of his death. At Theological College, I was taught that the Transfiguration is important because it reveals Christ's divine nature, foreshadows his death, secures his place in the stream of Israel's salvific history, and prefigures his Resurrection. The disciples on the mountain with Jesus and Mark's first hearers would have recalled the story at the end of Elijah's life as they experienced the Transfiguration. As told in 2 Kings 2:1-12, Elijah passes onto Elisha the role of one who speaks for God. Elisha witnessed the whirlwind that came down from heaven to draw up Elijah. God will now be present to the people through Elisha and they must now listen to him Just like Elisha, Jesus' stunned disciples find themselves standing upon a threshold in Mark 9. The man they thought they knew is suddenly more, suddenly "other". And the path he's walking — towards Jerusalem and death — is suddenly far grimmer than they could ever have imagined.

In other words, one phase of their life with Jesus is ending. What will it look like to begin another? They have journeyed with Jesus the teacher and the healer. Will they now journey with him towards the cross? Or will they insist — as Peter briefly does in his fear and confusion — on remaining exactly where they are, sedentary and safe? May you catch a glimpse of God's glory this week to sustain you in your walk with Jesus.

Rev Geoff

