



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

25 February 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NIV)

### The Covenant of Circumcision

<sup>17</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

<sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

<sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.

<sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

<sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

<sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

<sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

## Mark 8:31-38 (NIV)

### Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

### The Way of the Cross

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

<sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

<sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

<sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

## Other Lectionary Reading for this week

Psalms 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 9:2-9



## Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



## CHURCH SERVICES

3 March	8.30am	<b>Gowrie</b> ~ Meg Mangan
3 March	11am	<b>West</b> ~ Meg Mangan
10 March	11am	<b>West</b> ~ Rev Geoff
17 March	8.30am	<b>Gowrie</b> ~ Meg Mangan
17 March	11am	<b>West</b> ~ Meg Mangan
24 March	<b>Palm Sunday Hallsville</b> - Rev Geoff	
31 March	<b>Easter Sunday City Church</b>	
Our 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Combined Service		



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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the family and friends of Alexei Navalny, and for the people of Russia.
- We also pray for the people of Ukraine, and the Middle East.
- We continue to pray for Beth, as she recuperates from her pacemaker "changeover".
- We give thanks for a few cooler nights.
- We pray for people who are impacted by the effects of aging.

### Meg's Musings

I think that each one of us gets tired to answering the phone to scams and nuisance callers.

The effort of getting to the phone before it rings out is rewarded when a friend or family member makes contact.

When it is a scammer, it can make us annoyed and upset.

We can get caught up in our annoyance, and lose sight of our good-fortune at having a phone.

Sometimes our lives can be like that. We lose sight of the big picture of a loving God who showers with blessings, and we focus instead on our grievances and problems.

Imagine how happy we might be if we chose to focus on our many blessings and benefits, and overlooked some of the negatives.

Blessings from Meg



### A NEW SINGING GROUP

Hallsville Church @ 5:30 - 7:00pm  
fortnightly commencing **8th March**  
No cost is involved.



Everyone is welcome. No-one is too young, or too old. If you play an instrument, please bring it along.

There will be a light meal provided following the singing.

### 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



### Words from Rev Geoff

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Through preparation and participation in the annual worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context.

The program for 2024 was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7. Having reflected collectively on this theme "I beg you... bear with one another in love" from the context of their suffering as Palestinian Christian women. They hope to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times.

I have the privilege of speaking at the Tamworth World Day of Prayer Service at 10.30 am on 1 March 2024 at Mary Help of Christians, Hillvue Road Tamworth. While I have been very conscious of the coverage on the clash of worldviews and politics underlying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including this current escalation, I confess that I was largely ignorant of the needs and concerns the Gazan Christian community, stuck in the crossfire of conflict. Unfortunately, many Christians in other countries do not even know there are Christians in Palestine and view the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a religious conflict between Muslims and Jews, rather than the struggle over land it truly is. Today Palestinian Christians make up about 2% of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories yet Christians around the world owe much to these Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant believers and their faithful stewardship of the holiest sites of Christianity. The Message from the Christian women of Palestine's writing group is this: "We call on you, sisters and brothers in every part of the world, to bear with us in love. We call upon you to unite your prayers with ours for a just and peaceful solution that would bring an end to human suffering. We call upon you to stand in solidarity with us to achieve security and peace for all people around the world."

We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in international, ecumenical expression.

Rev Geoff



## THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE

Once upon a time, in a land of shimmering seas and golden sands, lived a humble fisherman and his wife. Each day, the fisherman cast his net, hoping for a lucky catch. But one extraordinary day, he caught something magical - a talking flounder, glittering like a thousand diamonds!



"Please, kind fisherman," the flounder spoke in a voice like the ocean's whisper, "I am no ordinary fish, but an enchanted prince! Spare me, and I shall grant your heart's desire."

The fisherman, kind-hearted and amazed, released the flounder without a single wish. He rushed home to share this wondrous tale with his wife. But, oh, his wife's eyes sparkled with greed!

"Go back! Ask for a wish!" she exclaimed. So, the fisherman returned to the sea, which whispered and whooshed, calling for the magical flounder.

"Dear flounder," he said humbly, "my wife desires a cozy cottage."

"Granted!" boomed the flounder, and in a blink, their old shack transformed into a lovely cottage. But the wife's desire grew wilder. She now wanted a grand castle, to be a queen, then an emperor! Each wish was grander than the last, and each time, the fisherman, with a heavy heart, asked the flounder.

The sea roared and raged with each wish, as if warning of the storm of greed.

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Finally, the wife demanded the impossible.- to become like God. The fisherman trembling, made this last, fateful wish,

The flounder's voice thundered, "Enough! Your greed has no bounds!" And in a flash, everything vanished - the castle, the riches, all gone! The fisherman and his wife were back in their humble shack, just as before, with nothing but each other and the lesson they had learned.

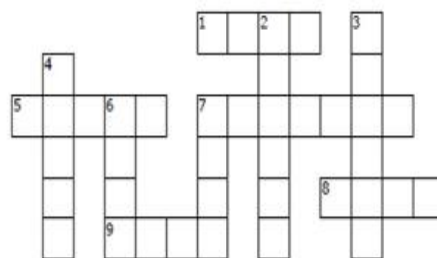
*And so, remember this: Be grateful for what you have, for greed can sweep away all your treasures, leaving you with nothing but regrets. Contentment is the greatest wealth one can possess!*

~ Brothers Grimm

## Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



### ACROSS

- The period between birth and death
- The object upon which Jesus was crucified
- To care about what you want without thinking of others
- To refuse to allow yourself something
- To no longer have something because it has been taken away

### DOWN

- To be guided by someone else; to go behind
- The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles
- A large number of people gathered together
- The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies
- To keep someone or something safe from harm



# Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



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

FORFEIT	WHOLE	GAIN	DENY
WORLD	LOSE	FOLLOW	GOSPEL
SAVE	GOOD	HIMSELF	SOUL
CROSS	DISCIPLES	LIFE	CROWD

Peace is the only battle worth waging.  
 ~ Albert Camus

**4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY**  
**"With Jesus to Calvary"**  
 Start - 27 February 7.30pm and 28 February 2pm  
 Contact Geoff 0421 338 202

Speak positive words into your life every single day. Think big. Think healing. Think success. Think peace. Think happiness. Think growth mindset. Always start the day with positive energy. You deserve it.

Apparently NASA has a poster hanging with bumble bees that reads:



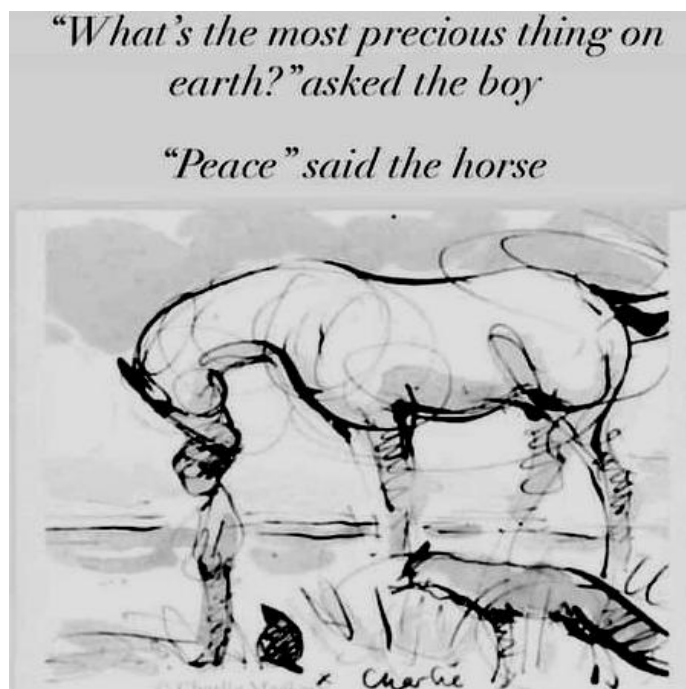
"Aerodynamically a bumble bee's body is not made to fly; the thing is that the bee doesn't know".

The law of physics says that a bumble bee cannot fly, the aerodynamic principle says that the breadth of its wings is too small to keep its huge body in flight, but a bee doesn't know, it doesn't know anything about physics or its logic and flies anyway.

This is what we can all do. Fly and prevail in every moment in the face of any difficulty and in any circumstance despite what they say. Let us be bumble bees, no matter the size of our wings, we take flight and enjoy the pollen of life.

~ Via WildAware

Everyone says corruption is everywhere, but for me it seems strange to say that and then not try to put the people guilty of that corruption away.~ Alexei Navalny



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