



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

10 March 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way.

<sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

<sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The shortest words - "yes" and "no" - are those which require the most thought.

~ Pythagoras

## CHURCH SERVICES

17 March 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

17 March 11am **West** ~ Meg Mangan

24 March **Palm Sunday Hallsville**

~ Rev Geoff

31 March **Easter Sunday City Church**

(Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Combined Service)



## John 3:14-21 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

<sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."



## Other Lectionary Reading this week:

Psalms 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10

## How to find out if you're OLD.

Fall down.....

If people laugh.....Your young.

If people panic.....Your old. ~anon



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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Jan Parker who has had a severe concussion.
- We continue to pray for each and every resident of the Middle East.
- We give thanks for the cooler nights this week.
- We pray for the process of selecting an additional minister to come to Tamworth.

### Meg's Musings

During this past week politics in Australia has been proceeding along smoothly. There has been a by-election for the seat of Dunkley, in Victoria, and the Liberal Party have conducted a pre-selection for the seat of Cook, vacated by Scott Morrison. Probably a few feathers have been ruffled - after all, we are talking about politics - but nothing serious. It is such a contrast to so many areas of the world. Russia will hold an election later this month, but the results are already known. In the USA, truth and reason seem to have deserted politics. In the Middle East, people feel absolutely helpless to control what is happening to them, and around them. We are so fortunate to live in Australia. It may seem that there is little that we can do to influence politics elsewhere. However, we can always pray. Prayer has the power to change things - maybe not as quickly as we would like, and maybe not in the way we envisaged - but it can, and does, create change

Blessings from Meg



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**Open 9:30 to 1:00pm**  
**Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.**  
 Cuppa & chat always available.



### 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

Back in February Aditee Vora the Communications and Marketing Coordinator for the Synod Insights Magazine invited Ministers to share what their ministry will involve going into 2024. You can read what she wrote about the Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches at Insights Magazine ([uca.org.au](http://uca.org.au))

On 1 March I preached on Ephesians 4:1-5 at the World Day of Prayer service held at Mary Help of Christian Church. on 1 March. The absence of electrical power did not deter the congregation from praying in solidarity with our Christian sisters and brothers in Palestine. Through the Ministers Fraternal I am now on the roster to offer prayer prior to Tamworth Regional City Council Meetings.

My first prayer will be on 23 April. Southside hosted the recent working group for the Fair Treatment Tamworth Region. This group of locals are passionate about improving access to treatment and support for people living with drug/alcohol dependencies. Over the coming months the steering committee is looking to screen the documentary Half a Million Steps at several local venues to foster wider community engagement. The premise of the documentary is "A few short steps to get drugs, but half a million steps to get help." The first screening is planned Southside so please speak to me if you would like to help.

The Chairperson of the Joint Nominations Committee (JNC) tasked with calling a second minister to the Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches has advised me that arising out of the February Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements (ACOMP) meeting the JNC has received a name for consideration.

Having preached on the ten commandments last week, it now intrigues me as to why God would have instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent (Numbers 21:4-9), when one of the 10 commandments specifically forbade the making of any image. Surely it would be hard for someone who had been cured by looking at the image made by Moses, not be tempted to worship it King Hezekiah obviously thought so as he destroyed it. (2 Kings 18.4).

Therefore, I don't think that the bronze serpent was meant to be a magical antidote to the venom; I am more inclined to think that the "snake"; symbolized God's grace, God's promise to the people that God did not wish them to die in the desert. All who perceived this bronze serpent in obedience of faith received healing. Thus, they proved, by looking; they believed Gods word.

Rev Geoff



### **Importance of giving**

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus.

Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me.

There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armour." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.

The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I'd like to buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver.

Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price.

The man didn't have enough money.

How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with.

Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learnt the value to Give.

The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything.

The importance of giving, blessing others can never be over emphasized because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving."

~ **A story from Katharine Hepburn's childhood. in her own words.**

In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back ~ Charlie Brown

# God So Loved the World

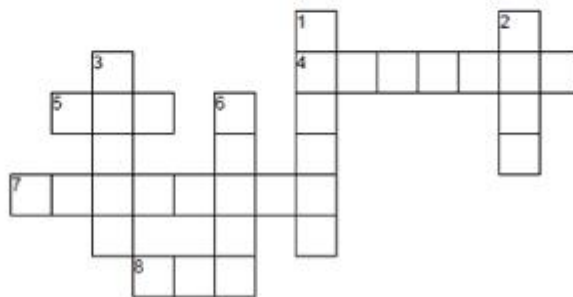
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

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

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD



## ACROSS

4. Lasting forever; without end
5. Male offspring
7. Accept something as being true, genuine, or real
8. The creator of heaven and earth

## DOWN

1. To die or be destroyed
2. To rescue from danger or harm
3. The earth with its inhabitants and everything on it
6. Cared very deeply for someone

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