



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

17 March 2024

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NLT)

³¹ “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.

³³ “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

Other Lectionary Reading this week:

Psalms 51:1-12 Psalms 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10



Hallsville Markets will be in recess until September. Apparently the newspaper weren't including the markets in the weekends' activities, so people didn't know so they didn't come.

CHURCH SERVICES



24 March **Palm Sunday** Hallsville

~ Rev Geoff

31 March **Easter Sunday** City Church
(Our 5th Sunday Combined Service)

John 12: 20-33 (NLT)

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration ²¹ paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.”

²² Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.

²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

²⁵ Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

²⁶ Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came!

²⁸ Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.”

²⁹ When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine.

³¹ The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

³² And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

³³ He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for Jan Parker.
- We pray for Lynn Hatfield who had a knee replacement this week.
- We continue to pray for everyone affected by war and conflict.
- We give thanks for our friends.
- We pray for the many people affected by, and recovering from Covid.

Meg's Musings

My mind took a hike down memory lane, and I recalled how, at this time of year, several children in my class had greenish hair.

There was something in the chlorinated water at the local baths. The children with blonde hair were most affected.

I guess that the chemicals used these days don't have the same effect, as I haven't seen any green-haired children for many years.

It was easy to spot the children who swam frequently.

It made me wonder. Can people readily see that we are Christians?

Do the things which we do and say make us easy to spot?

There is a song, "They will know that we are Christians by our love".

Let's make it easy for people to notice that we are Christians - let's show love to everyone.

Blessings from Meg



**BE THE REASON
SOMEONE BELIEVES
IN THE GOODNESS
OF GOD.**

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

Do you wish to see Jesus?

John's purpose in writing his Gospel is so that all people may believe in Jesus, and in believing, have life in his name. The actual reality of that is seen in our Gospel for this Sunday. (John 12:20-33) Lifted up on the Cross, Jesus promises to draw people from all nations to himself.

John tells us that there were some Greeks among those going up to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship at the Passover festival. While they could visit Jerusalem for the great feasts, Greeks were not permitted to pass beyond the outer court of the Gentiles when they went to the Temple. These Greeks who wish to see Jesus are among the first of those outside of Israel whom Jesus will draw to the Father. In so doing they came not just to the court of the Gentiles, but to the Person of Christ, they came to the holy of holies, the new Temple where the fullness of God's gracious presence dwells, where all people, not just those from Israel, are able to meet with God and receive divine favour. By omitting to name these Greeks, John makes room for all those outside of Israel to place themselves in the text and say: "We wish to see Jesus". That includes us too.

For John, the death of Jesus on the cross has a universal application for people of every ethnicity. The raising of Jesus nailed to a cross has and will continue to draw more people to Jesus than all Jesus' miracles or authoritative teaching. Jesus wants us to be drawn to him because of his suffering with and for us, and the injustice of his death, rather than because of his amazing miracles.

We lift up or focus on the Cross of Christ during Lent because it speaks to us primarily of a fellow sufferer who understands what it's like for us to suffer and to be afraid of dying. Jesus hears your pain from his cross and not from the cosy comfort of an armchair in ways you can only begin to imagine. Your Saviour's Cross means you can trust Jesus with your suffering and discover that trusting him is life-transforming.

Rev Geoff



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

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them. Just read it straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers.

They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies.

Awards tarnish ...

Achievements are forgotten.

Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

.....continued

Peace is the only battle worth waging.

~ Albert Camus

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money ... or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.



Once you hit a certain age life becomes a delicate balance between trying to stay awake and trying to fall asleep while slowly getting worse at both. ~ J E Durham

The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



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

Closure of Rainbow Cottage

This week, Staff and parents were advised by managers from Uniting NSW/ACT that the Rainbow Cottage Occasional Care Centre is to close no later than 30 June 2024. Legislation changes in 2019 which required Occasional Care Centres to be assessed and rated under the National Quality Framework (NQF) placed additional financial overheads on Rainbow Cottage. The Cottage has operated at a loss these past six months and extensive analysis presented to the Tamworth City Church Council (TCCC) by Uniting demonstrated that it is not possible for the Cottage to make a surplus by increasing enrolments or other cost cutting measures. The NQF specifies the amount of indoor and outdoor space required by each child. Unfortunately, the size of the land on which the Cottage is built prohibits an increase in enrolments to the desired level. With this knowledge, the Church Council investigated the possibility of relocating the Cottage to the City Uniting Church site to keep the centre operating. However, these investigations demonstrated that this was also not a viable option. Therefore, with a heavy heart the Church Council recommended to Uniting that Rainbow Cottage be closed and that, out of care and concern for both staff and parents, they be given three months' notice.

Staff at Rainbow Cottage are employed by Uniting and Uniting is responsible for any HR administration associated with the closure. The staff have been offered pastoral support from the Congregation and Uniting's Chaplains. The decision to close Rainbow Cottage is not a decision by the Tamworth Uniting Churches to withdraw from children and family ministry. Moving forward TCCC is planning to explore alternative uses for the Rainbow Cottage property which might include its use by community play groups, children's parties, home schooling classrooms or office suites for children's services. You are welcome to contact Reverend Geoff Flynn for further information.

Say what you want about aging; it's still the only way to have old friends. ~ Robert Breault



WORLD	DIE	TIME	HEARD	CROWD
ANGEL	HEAVEN	MYSELF	LIFTED	MEN
VOICE	FATHER	GLORIFY	PRINCE	SHOW
JUDGEMENT	DRAW	EARTH	THUNDER	NAME

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love. ~ Peter Scholtes