



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Easter 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Isaiah 50:4-9 (NRSV)

The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- ⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
- ⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me; Who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

- ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.
- ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "
- ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,
- ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"
- ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.
- ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.
- ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.
- ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
- ¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

CHURCH SERVICES



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

7 April 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan
Holy Communion (lunch to follow)

14 April 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Rev Geoff

21 April 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

21 April 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan

28 April 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Marg Crowell

Other Lectionary Reading this week:



Mar 24 2024

Liturgy of the Palms Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm

31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the family of Phyll Bylund. Phyll will be missed by many people.
- We give thanks for the rain which fell last Monday.
- We pray for those people in Russia who were disappointed in how their election was run.
- We pray for the people impacted by war in Ukraine and the Middle East.
- We pray for people to see Easter as far more than a holiday, and the opportunity to enjoy chocolate.

Meg's Musings

My better half has given me the opportunity to take over her regular column to write a "musing"—thanks Meg. It is apparently due to the fact that very soon it will be my birthday — so here we go.

Obviously 80 is lot of years which to "muse" upon, I do know that many of our congregation are well past that point in life and to them I say "well done" and thank you. I have found it very interesting too. And it has been very instructive to ponder on my own growth with God in the Uniting Church Christian faith in that time.

I have been through lot of life instances / health issues / incidents which have been quite challenging, but there does always seem to be an answer from God.

The continuum of life's journey, in which steps, and missteps, always eventually seem to lead (so far for me), to yet another learning step that needs to be taken.

Close members of my immediate family, and many of my contemporaries and other life-long friends have already passed on from this life, so I know there is a welcome waiting in Heaven.

I have also felt lately that I have arrived at a point in my life where I need to learn the step of being KIND, and while I continue to do my best, it is again obvious to me, when I "fall short".

I can imagine a kind God saying "I'm very gentle with my apprentices and I'm happy to leave you there (for the time being) while you continue to work on it" - and that is exactly how I came to be hunting & pecking this "musings" out.
Laurie



I have reached the age where
"Happy Hour" is a nap. ~ Maxine



1 April Laurie Mangan
Lunch after the West Tamworth
service on 7th April
"Every birthday is a gift. Every day is a gift."



Words from Rev Geoff

As we enter Holy Week there is a lot going on across the Tamworth Regional Churches.

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) responsible for calling a second Minister to work in team with me have begun a conversation with a prospective candidate. It is early days, however, the Southside Church Council has agreed to work with the JNC to the housing needs for a second Minister should the conversation move to the next stage. Denise McAdam, Nicolette Willis and Meg Mangan are our congregational representatives on the JNC.

The City Church Council elected Mariette Duns as the acting Chairperson prior to meeting with the Director of Mission from Uniting on Wednesday morning to clarify the membership of the task group that will oversee the closure of Rainbow Cottage.

There is a lot happening at Hallsville this weekend. We have our Singing and Fellowship evening at 5.30 pm on Friday and on Sunday we are having a family worship service which will focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy week and I invite us to gather for our combined Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services. To use a cricketing analogy, I think of these three services as a four-day test match for Christians. Instead of our regular T20 Sunday morning service we have a leisurely four days to enter into the story of Jesus' death and resurrection more fully.

I leave you with this thought. Does the way we Australians spend our time at Easter reveal who it is that we really worship? If we are working, is money our god? If it is camping, is nature our god? If it is with family, family our god? If we are attending a music festival, is music our god? If we are watching or participating in a sporting event is the human body our god?

None of these things are bad in themselves unless of course they lead us to join in with the cries of the crowd who were present at the trial of Jesus. When Pilate asked them what they wanted him to do with Jesus the crowd cried "Away with him, away with him, crucify him." John 19:15

To which Jesus replied in prayer "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Rev Geoff





We are saddened to announce Phyll Bylund's funeral will be next Monday, 25th March at 10.30am ~ West Tamworth. Meg will be taking this service.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

May You Always (The McGuire Sisters)

May you always walk in sunshine
Slumber warm when night winds blow
May you always live with laughter
For a smile becomes you so

May good fortune find your doorway
May the bluebird sing your song
May no trouble travel your way
May no worry stay too long

May your heartaches be forgotten
May no tears be spilled
May old acquaintance be remembered
And your cup of kindness filled

And may always be a dreamer
May your wildest dream come true
May you find someone to love
As much as I love you
(May your heartaches be forgotten)
(May no tears be spilled)

May old acquaintance be remembered
And your cup of kindness filled
And may always be a dreamer
May your wildest dream come true
May you find someone to love
As much as I love you ~ Dick Charles, Larry Markes

The Triumphal Entry

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on Mark 11:1-11




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

SPREAD	VILLAGE	BLESSED	BRANCHES	HOSANNA
HIGHEST	SHOUTED	DISCIPLES	LORD	JESUS
HEAVEN	CLOAKS	NAME	ROAD	COLT

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



 **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.

 **Daylight saving ends at 3am,**
Eastern Daylight Saving Time **Sunday 7 April 2023.** Clocks put back one hour.

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



The Giving Tree

Once there was a tree and she loved a little boy.

And every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest.

He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. And they would play hide-and-go-seek. And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade.

And the boy loved the tree very much.

And the tree was happy.

But time went by. And the boy grew older. And the tree was often alone. Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."

"I am too big to climb and play" said the boy. "I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money?"

"I'm sorry," said the tree, "but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples. Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy."

And so the boy climbed up the tree and gathered her apples and carried them away.

And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time and the tree was sad. And then one day the boy came back and the tree shook with joy and she said, "Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy."

"I am too busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep me warm," he said. "I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house," said the tree. "The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a

house. Then you will be happy."

And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak.

.....continued

"Come, Boy," she whispered, "come and play."
"I am too old and sad to play," said the boy.
"I want a boat that will take me far away from here.

Can you give me a boat?" "Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away and be happy."

And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. And the tree was happy. And after a long time the boy came back again.

"I am sorry, Boy," said the tree, "but I have nothing

left to give you - My apples are gone."

"My teeth are too weak for apples," said the boy.

"My branches are gone," said the tree.

"You cannot swing on them - "

"I am too old to swing on branches," said the boy.

"My trunk is gone," said the tree.

"You cannot climb - ""I am too tired to climb" said the boy.

"I am sorry," sighed the tree.

"I wish that I could give you something. I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...."

"I don't need very much now," said the boy.

"just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired."

"Well," said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could, "well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."

And the boy did. And the tree was happy.

~ Shel Silverstein

