



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

7 April 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

John 20:19-31 (NLT)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said.

²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

²¹ Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.

²⁵ They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said.

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

²⁸ "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

.....continued

Purpose of the Book

³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133



Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present. ~ N T Wright



We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence. ~ Pope Francis

CHURCH SERVICES

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



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We thank God for the beautiful autumn weather which we're experiencing - enough sunshine, enough rain, and cool nights. What could be more perfect!
- We pray for the families of the aid workers killed in Gaza.
- We pray for peace for our war-torn world.
- We pray for the family of Phyll Bylund, who continue to mourn her loss.
- We pray for the residents and staff members of local nursing homes.

Meg's Musings

Three people in our congregation had significant birthdays over Easter.

Bruce Jarrett turned 90 on Good Friday.

Val Lush turned 80 on Easter Sunday.

Laurie Mangan turned 80 on Easter Monday.

Special occasions indeed - and a moment for celebrations.

However, almost 2,000 years later we are still experiencing the wonder of Jesus' love for mankind in facing the cross on our behalf.

And we still celebrate the joy of the resurrection - of Jesus conquering death, and rising again.

Jesus love for us is worth celebrating each and every day!

Blessings from Meg



“This is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, Love to complete your life.”

~RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



Words from Rev Geoff

Christ is Risen.

He is Risen indeed!

While for most people Easter is over for another year, for those of us who indeed believe that God raised Jesus up from the grave we still have a further seven Sundays to celebrate and reflect on the meaning of Easter. This Sunday our Gospel reading is John 20:17-31 describes the disciples first encounter with the risen Jesus in a locked room.

They were scared and hiding out. Yet, suddenly, amid their fear and confusion, there was Jesus standing in their midst, not with angels, trumpets, or legions, but quietly. He brought only peace, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, and a commission. In fact, Jesus breathed the Spirit into them. This is John's "Pentecost", although the Spirit comes here not with wind and flame but with Jesus' own breath, the very life-force of the one raised from the dead who tells them to go out and be peace and forgiveness and love for the world.

Jesus came and lived and died and rose again that we might have peace with one another and with God. Life in all its fullness is life with each other and God. Is this not a great vision of whom we are meant to be as a human race – people who live together in unity: in joy and peace with one another?

On 28 March I visited Duri Public School with Anne Wall to share the Easter message with the students who participate in the Religion in Schools program. It was a joy to be with thirty children from kindergarten to year 6, teaching them a song on my violin and explaining that the first Easter gift was new life in Jesus not chocolate Easter eggs. I also had a lot of fun making palm crosses with the Children and their teachers. While at the school I presented the Principal Catherine Anderson with a donation of \$1000 from the Peel Valley Congregation.



Rev Geoff

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1 John 1:1-1 John 2:2 (NLT)

Introduction

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.

2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

Living in the Light

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.


9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining—they just shine. ~ Dwight L. Moody

"Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand. 
Blessed are they who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my answers slow.
Blessed are they who look away
When my tea was spilled at the table
today.

Blessed are they who with a cheery smile
Will stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know my ways
And bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who ease the days
And care for me in loving ways.
Blessed are they who make it known
I'm loved, respected and not alone"

~ Author Unknown

I still believe in Santa, the Easter Bunny,
the Tooth Fairy, and true love. Don't
even try to tell me different.

~ Dolly Parton,

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

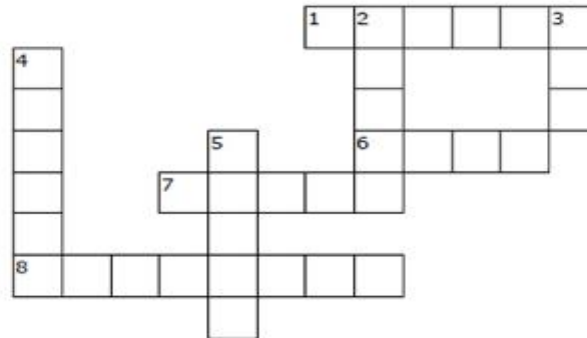
Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 20:19-31.



ACROSS

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. An entrance into a building or room
7. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
8. Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

2. The body parts at the end of the arms
3. To observe with your eyes
4. Not open
5. To believe in something for which there is no proof

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

THOMAS	DISCIPLES	DOORS	MIRACLES	TOUCHED
HANDS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	SHOWED	SIGNS
SIDE	RECORDED	BELIEVED	JESUS	LOCKED

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