



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

28 April 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

## John 15:1-8 (NLT)

### Jesus, the True Vine

<sup>15</sup> "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

<sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

<sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you.

For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

<sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

<sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

## 1 John 4:7-21 (NLT)

### Loving One Another

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

<sup>13</sup> And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. <sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. <sup>17</sup> And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

<sup>18</sup> Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. <sup>19</sup> We love each other because he loved us first. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31



Graciousness words are like honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. ~ Proverbs 16:24



### CHURCH SERVICES

5 May 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan

12 May 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Rev Geoff

19 May 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

19 May 11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for our members who are, or have been, unwell.
- We thank God for the selflessness of those who served Australia in armed conflicts.
- We pray for the nations presently experiencing war.
- We give thanks for the joy of friendships.
- We pray for those people who are travelling this busy weekend.

### Meg's Musings

As I write this, I'm looking out the window at the bees lazily flitting around our rosemary bush.

The rain of past weeks has caused a flush of flowers, and the bees are loving it.

There are a few showy roses, many gazanias, some geraniums, and other bits and pieces in our garden.

But the bees steadfastly choose the rosemary.

I don't know if it's the perfect colour to attract the bees, or if the strong aroma has an effect on them.

It's quite a large bush, so once the bees arrive, they can flit about, with no need to range further afield.

Having found Christ, we have no need to hunt around, looking for other faiths or support. We find that we have our support, our strength, and our source of love in Christ.

God is all we need!

Blessings from Meg



### Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



"Biggest Morning Tea"

Thursday, 16th May

10:00am - 12:00.



### 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

We live in an interconnected world. You connect on Facebook with your friends. The Internet connects us in so many ways beyond social networks. Much of our shopping, emailing, banking, doctoring, even the power grid, touches the Internet even if you don't own a computer. Or think of how phones connect us today, not only in our homes but wherever we're in range of a mobile phone tower. In this interconnected world we can easily track of the most important connection of all. "Stay connected to Jesus."

That's one of the truths we find in our Gospel Reading from John 15:1-8. Jesus calls himself the true, genuine Vine. And those of us who fellowship in one of the Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches are invited to think of ourselves as the branches. And Jesus' metaphor also comes with a warning that every branch that bears no fruit he removes. That's why it's so important for you and me to stay connected to him.

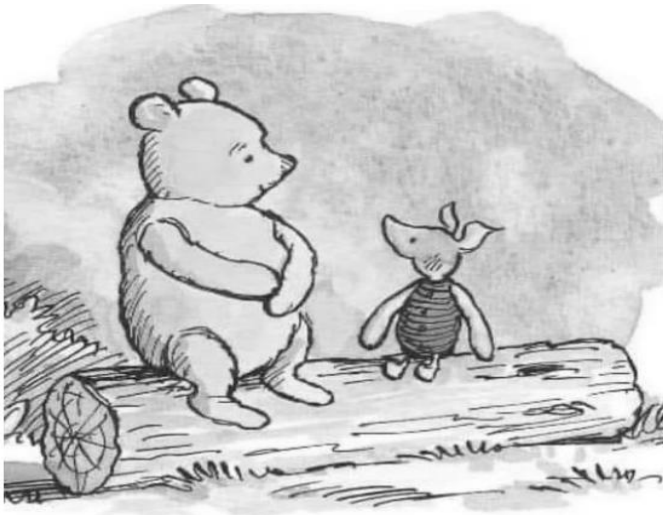
During the past week I have visited both Lloyd Johnson and the late John McClelland in the Tamworth Hospital on several occasions. What struck me about these visits is that both men remained connected to Jesus as they faced sickness and death. We prayed together and shared stories of wonderful times spent worshipping in the Uniting Church and witnessing to their faith in Jesus. I was also encouraged by the way in which members of our church have supported John and Marie and Llyod and Betty through phone calls, meals, visits and other acts of pastoral care.

A branch needs the vine continuously. Only the vine brings the sap to nourish, strengthen, and keep the branches alive. A branch connected to Jesus continuously depends on his word of truth for strength and life. Keep feeding on his word of truth. Don't live your life thinking that you just need enough faith to slide into heaven. Don't live with the attitude that wants to get by with just enough church, just enough Bible study, just enough religion, so that you have just enough faith. That's not faith. Faith depends on Jesus continuously, like a branch depending on the vine.

So, stay connected to Jesus as you remain in him and his word remains in you. Then you will bear much fruit. Amen.

Reverend Geoff





"Piglet?" said Pooh.

"Yes?" said Piglet.

"I'm scared," said Pooh.

For a moment, there was silence.

"Would you like to talk about it?" asked Piglet, when Pooh didn't appear to be saying anything further.

"I'm just so scared," blurted out Pooh.

"So anxious. Because I don't feel like things are getting any better. If anything, I feel like they might be getting worse. People are angry, because they're so scared, and they're turning on one another, and there seems to be no clear plan out of here, and I worry about my friends and the people I love, and I wish SO much that I could give them all a hug, and oh, Piglet! I am so scared, and I cannot tell you how much I wish it wasn't so."

Piglet was thoughtful, as he looked out at the blue of the skies, peeping between the branches of the trees in the Hundred Acre Wood, and listened to his friend.

"I'm here," he said, simply. "I hear you, Pooh. And I'm here."

.....continued

For a moment, Pooh was perplexed.

"But... aren't you going to tell me not to be so silly? That I should stop getting myself into a state and pull myself together? That it's hard for everyone right now?"

"No," said Piglet, quite decisively. "No, I am very much not going to do any of those things."

"But - " said Pooh.

"I can't change the world right now," continued Piglet. "And I am not going to patronize you with platitudes about how everything will be okay because I don't know that."

"What I can do, though, Pooh, is that I can make sure that you know that I am here. And that I will always be here, to listen; and to support you; and for you to know that you are heard."

"I can't make those Anxious Feelings go away, not really."

"But I can promise you that, all the time I have breath left in my body...you won't ever need to feel those Anxious Feelings alone."

And it was a strange thing, because even as Piglet said that, Pooh could feel some of those Anxious Feelings start to loosen their grip on him and could feel one or two of them start to slither away into the forest, cowed by his friend, who sat there stolidly next to him.

Pooh thought he had never been more grateful to have Piglet in his life.

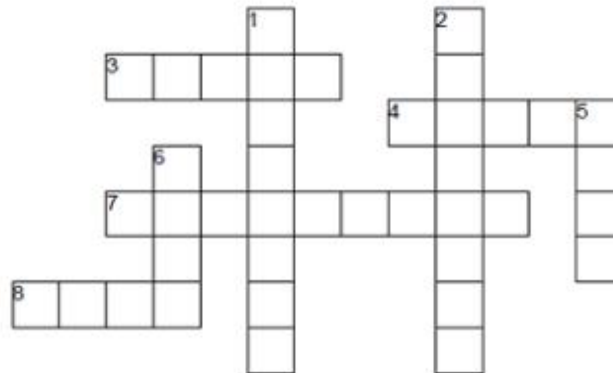
~ AA Milne

# The True Vine

"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.." John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8.



## ACROSS

3. Praise or honor
4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
7. Those who follow Jesus
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

## DOWN

1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
2. A person who works with plants and flowers
5. The opposite of false
6. Burning flame

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

WORDS	GARDENER	REMAIN	BEAR	GLORY
CLEAN	PRUNES	THROWN	VINE	TRUE
FRUIT	BRANCH	FIRE	WITHERS	BURNED

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