



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

22 December 2024

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55) (NRSVU)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel

Micah 5:2-5a (NRSVU)

The Ruler from Bethlehem

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 146-55

Mary's Song of Praise

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For He hath regarded:
the lowliness of His hand-maiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For He that is mighty hath magnified me,
And holy is His Name.
- 5 And His mercy is on them that fear Him
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath showed strength with His arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their sea:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He hath sent empty away.
- 9 He, remembering His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel:
as He promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. ~ hymnary.org

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that the world might become a place where Jesus could feel at home.
- We give thanks for the people we love - friends and family.
- We also give thanks for those people who go the extra mile - with a smile on their faces.
- We pray for the people who won't be home for Christmas.
- We pray for the people of Tamworth.

Meg's Musings

This week has been HOT. Nights have been unpleasantly warm!

Maybe we haven't felt like giving thanks for the heat. But we do give thanks for the way that:-

*A hot shower eases aching backs, shoulders and necks.

*A hot meal brings comfort and enjoyment.

*Cosy socks help our toes to thaw.

*A fire helps us to feel warm and relaxed.

*A warm smile makes the day, and the world, a happier place.

We thank God for the way that everything has it's seasons, and its' uses.

Blessing from Meg



24 December 7:30pm Family Christmas Service at Tamworth City



24 December 11pm Midnight Communion Christmas Serviced at Southside.



25 December 9am Christmas Day Service at Southside.

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



Words from Rev Geoff

Let God Surprise you for Christmas

This year we have the opportunity to sing Christmas Carols in both English and Fijian on Saturday night at Tamworth Southside. Did you know that our beloved tradition of singing carols during Christmas is rooted in Luke's account of the birth of Jesus in the first two chapters of his gospel? Luke tells the story around three songs. There is Mary's "Magnificat" (Lk 1:46-55); Zechariah's "Benedictus" (Lk 1:68-79); and Simeon's "Nunc Dimittis" (Lk 2:29-32). The names of these songs are each taken from the opening words of each song in Latin.

The most famous of these songs is the Magnificat, which is still chanted during the full celebration of the Mass in the Roman Catholic tradition and regularly performed by professional choirs. It is certainly up there with some of the most revolutionary words that have been set to music in the world. And it is the focus for this Sunday's gospel reading.

The first part of Mary's song is personal: She has been recognized. (1:48). As a servant girl, she is as astonished as we are. It is still extraordinary that God works through the least, unnoticed by all those whose gaze is captured by the Caesars and Pilates, the Herod's and high priests of the world.

The second part of the Magnificat is about God demonstrating extraordinary strength (1:51)—which is ironic and profound, given who God has chosen. This alternative power, ignored by the "proud," seems mysteriously lodged in oppressed women giving birth in the face of empire.

The promise of Micah 5 is that God will be faithful and will appear in surprising ways. As Advent draws to a close, Micah invites us to look for God's presence where we least expect and to be attuned to the songs of the small, the powerless, and the vulnerable. Are we prepared to be surprised? Are we prepared to welcome the Holy One into our midst the Christmas? With less than a week to go to Christmas I urge you not to let, last minute shopping, Christmas dinner arrangements and holiday plans prevent you for seeing what God is doing in your life and the lives of those around you.

May God's love uphold and sustain you this Christmas.

Rev Geoff



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

A Song Forged from Silence

How a Broken Organ Gave the World "Silent Night"

It was Christmas Eve, 1818, in the village of Oberndorf, in the Austrian Alps. A biting chill swept through the newly constructed church as Joseph Mohr, the village priest, paced anxiously. The church organ—a vital instrument for the midnight service—lay broken and silent, a cruel blow to the evening's carefully planned music. Mohr's heart sank. What could be done now? The silence of the instrument threatened to ruin the sacred celebration.

Mohr remembered a truth he often preached: God's plans rise in the face of human failure. "Problems are God's opportunities," he reminded himself. Inspired by that thought, of a poem he had written two years earlier: "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." A new idea took shape—a song that could be sung without the need for an organ.

Mohr went to see Franz Gruber, the church organist.

"We need a melody," he said, holding up the scribbled lines of his poem. "A simple one—."

The two men worked tirelessly, Gruber pulling together chords and harmonies, the soft sounds of the guitar filling the silence left by the organ. By the time the bells tolled midnight, their creation was ready. That night, on December 24th, 1818, the congregation gathered in the dim candlelit church. As Mohr and Gruber stood at the front, Gruber's guitar gently accompanied their voices as they sang:

"Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright..."

It was simple, pure, and hauntingly beautiful. The music, born of brokenness, filled the small church with peace. ~TD Hale(Excerpt)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia"
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth



YUTORI (Japan)

The conscious act of slowing down to allow us to savor the world around us. The refusal to rush. Not talking. Just absorbing the world around us with no goal except to *see*. - *spaciousness*

Peel Valley Congregation
19 January, 2025 Country Gospel
Breakfast at Hallsville.

Peel Valley Congregation in recess til
26 January 11am West~ Rev Sam Sadrata



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

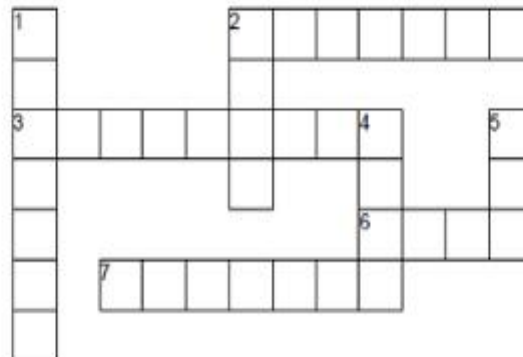


..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
Luke 1:45 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

2. To accept as true
3. The mother of John the Baptist
6. The mother of Jesus
7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

DOWN

1. Highly favored by God
2. An infant; a young child
4. The place where a person lives
5. The feeling of great happiness

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY

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

Sermn4kids