



## Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

12 January 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

### Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah.

<sup>16</sup> John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

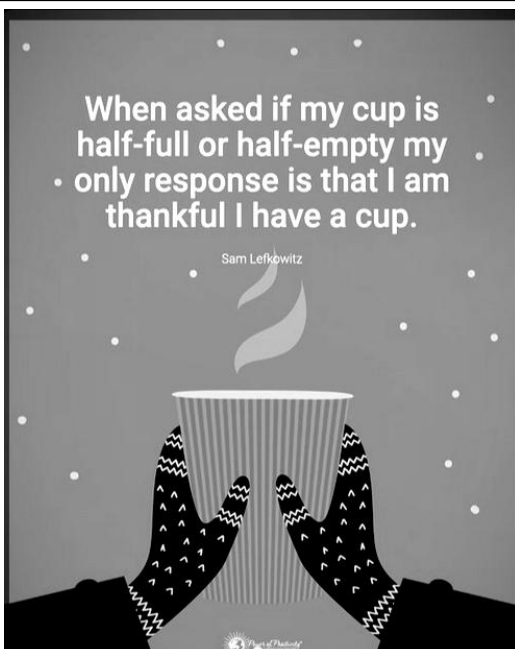
<sup>17</sup> He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>21</sup> One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalms 29 Acts 8:14-17



1. What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
Do thy friends despise, forsake  
thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms He'll take and shield  
thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there

~ Joseph Medlicott Scriven

### 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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that 2025 will be a year where God's will is done on earth. We also pray that we are ready and willing to play our part in that.
- We give thanks for the time spent with family and loved ones over Christmas and New Year.
- We pray for the people in hospitals and nursing homes who don't receive visitors.
- We give thanks that Laurie Mangan is out of hospital.
- We pray for, and give thanks, for the many people in the Tamworth area who are here on working visas.
- Our prayers go with Evelyn and Tony as they travel to New Zealand.

### Meg's Musings

I have a friend who regularly writes thank-you notes whenever someone does something for her.

Her notes are timely, special, and heartfelt. It is always a pleasure to receive them.

God is constantly doing wonderful things for us - each morning the sun rises. We enjoy rain and gentle breezes.

When we open our eyes, we are surrounded by the beauty of nature.

God sends friends, and even angels in disguise, to help us along our path when things are difficult.

Yet how often do we remember to send "thank-you notes" to God in the form of prayer?

How often does a simple, "thank-you, God" spring from our lips?

Let's make a conscious effort this year to make sure that we send "thank-you notes" to God for some of the many blessings he showers upon us.

*Blessing from Meg*



**Peel Valley Congregation .....**

**19 January, 2025 Country Gospel  
Breakfast at Hallsville.**



Peel Valley Congregation in recess til .....

**26 January 11am West~ Rev Sam Sadrata**

**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**

**Open 9:30 to 1:00pm**

**Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.**

**Cuppa & chat always available.**



### Words from Rev Geoff

#### New Beginnings in 2025

New Year's is like a door. We have just celebrated Christmas and filled our hearts with hope and peace and joy and love. Christ is born in us and among us! The Light of the World is here! And now it is time — the New Year's time — for us to go out into the world and carry all of this goodness with us. When we put away the Christmas decorations, we do not put away the blessings of Christ's birth. Christ's Hope and Peace and Joy and Love to You! You may wish to make a banner for your front door — so that each time you go out and come in, you will remember the new life we have in Christ and carry the blessings of Christmas with you into the world and into the New Year.

For those of us in the Uniting Church 2025 has the potential to be a year of significant change and renewal. The Synod is working up a proposal to move from where we are now with 12 Presbyteries to three new, larger, better-resourced Presbyteries, in a pastorally grounded way. Now that the Tamworth Regional Church has a new ministry team, we are resourced to explore new mission opportunities such as the consolidation of the Fijian Worship Service, strengthening our ministry with children and families and exploring new mission opportunities in West Tamworth.

At a personal level you may feel led by the spirit to take on a new role within the Church or the community to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are praying for new volunteers who are prepared to train as pastoral partners, to serve on our councils or to provide practical help. If you would like to find out more about how you could support the mission of the Uniting Church, please speak with Reverend Sam or myself.

May the blessing of God  
who established heaven and earth  
watch over your comings and goings in 2025.

May the blessing of Christ Jesus  
who is born anew each Christmas time  
call you towards a new tomorrow;

And may the blessing of the Spirit  
who refreshes and renews all creation

guide and lead you as you enter the new year. Amen.

*Reverend Geoff*



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



There was a boy nicknamed Sparky, for whom school was all but impossible. He failed just about every subject. He flunked high school with a grade of zero!

In sports, Sparky fared not much better. He did manage to make his high school golf team, but lost the most important match of the season, and the consolation match, too. While he wasn't actively disliked by the other students, he was awkward socially, and it seemed no one really cared.

Sparky never asked a girl to go out in high school because he was too afraid of being turned down.

There was one thing that was important to Sparky -- drawing. He drew constantly and felt his artwork was pretty good. In his senior year of high school, he finally got up the nerve to submit some of his drawings to the yearbook. Unfortunately, they were rejected.

Nevertheless, after high school, Spark submitted some cartoons to the Walt Disney Studios. Finally, the reply came ... Sparky had been rejected once again.

Sparky expressed himself the only way he knew how.

He started drawing an autobiography of a little boy who was a loser, a chronic underachiever, someone who didn't even have the respect of his own dog.

This autobiography might sound familiar to you. It's the story of the "Peanuts" cartoons, featuring Charlie Brown, a character based on the early life of his creator, Charles Schultz, who was known by the nickname Sparky, and whose work, when he died in February 2000, at the age of 77, had been known the world over for 50 years. Wonderful encouragement!!! ~unknown

Spread a little kindness  
Sprinkle as you go  
Send it out into the world  
Watch it ebb and flow  
  
Plant a kindness garden  
The more seeds that you sow  
You'll find that your own happiness  
will grow  
and grow  
and grow!

Laura Jaworski

*Jingle, Jingle Little Gnome & Other Children's Poems*



www.laurajaworski.com

### The Little Boy and the Old Man

Said the little boy,  
"Sometimes I drop my spoon."  
Said the old man, "I do that too."  
The little boy whispered,  
"I wet my pants."  
I do that too," laughed the little old man.  
Said the little boy, "I often cry."  
The old man nodded, "So do I."  
But worst of all," said the boy, "it seems  
Grown-ups don't pay attention to me."  
And he felt the warmth of a wrinkled old  
hand.  
I know what you mean," said the little old  
man.  
~Shel Silverstein

**This year,  
make self-care  
a priority. You can't  
pour from an empty  
cup, so take care of  
yourself first.**

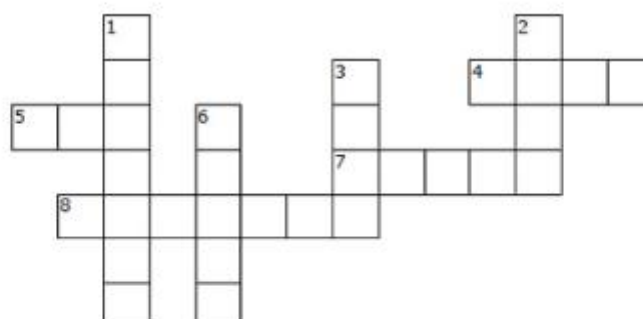


..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

# Jesus, the One and Only

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:22b (NIV)

Based on Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



## ACROSS

4. The name of the man who baptized Jesus
5. A male offspring
7. The sound produced by vibration of the human vocal cords
8. To cover briefly completely in water or pour water over a person's head

## DOWN

1. A shoe consisting of a sole fastened to the foot by straps
2. A deep feeling of affection for a person
3. A bird often used as a symbol of peace
6. Clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid; H<sub>2</sub>O

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

PEOPLE	BAPTIZE	DOVE	PRAYING	FIRE
POWERFUL	JOHN	OPENED	SPIRIT	VOICE
CHRIST	WATER	HOLY	HEAVEN	JESUS