



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

9 March 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 (NLT)

- ¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
² I will say of the LORD, "He is my
refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his
angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot
against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the
serpent.
¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD,
"I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges
my name."
¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Luke 4:1-13 (NLT)

The Temptation of Jesus

- ⁴ Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
² where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.
³ Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."
⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"
⁵ Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.
⁶ "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. ⁷ I will give it all to you if you will worship me."
⁸ Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"
⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,
'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.'
¹¹ And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."
¹² Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'"
¹³ When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

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CHURCH SERVICES

16 March 11am West ~ Meg Mangan

23 March 11am West ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

30 March 11am: Combined service

hosted by the Fijian congregation



**God is in control!
But,
He doesn't expect you
to lean on a shovel
and pray for a hole.**

Other Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Sam and for Mary - that the issue is soon resolved.
- We pray for wisdom for world leaders.
- We give thanks for the hope and joy which our faith in God creates.
- We pray for good health for each other, and for our family members.
- We pray for people affected by the recent tropical cyclones.

Meg's Musings

Lent is a time which is set aside for us to draw closer to God - who sent Jesus to draw us to Himself.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting and restricted diets. It was thought that it would give people more "headspace" to contemplate God if they were less concerned with food.

However, many people find that to be unhelpful. I can remember children in primary school being very focused on the fact that they weren't allowed to have chocolate or lollies during Lent. Each of us need to work out what it is that will allow us to move closer to God.

Is it having longer prayer times?

Is it using a Lent devotional, or attending a Lenten study?

Is it intentionally reaching out to other people?

Whatever you decide to do - or not do - may this time of Lent be a special time for you.

Blessing from Meg



I love waving at random people, because you know for the rest of the day they're trying to figure out who you were! ~ anon

4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

7:30am 23 March



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



Minister's Weekly Reflection

The Temptation to be Relevant As we enter the season of Lent, I find it a challenge to not say things which are superficial and which well taught Christians have heard many times before. It is obvious in our gospel reading from this Sunday Luke 4:1-13 that the story of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness has him wrestling with the prosperity, fame and power that the devil offers in exchange for allegiance to him.

Both Matthew and Luke affirm that the Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness, as opposed to the urgency offered by Mark's indication that Jesus was "driven" into the desert. The actual geographical location of the wilderness is less important than its theological location. The wilderness holds a somewhat ambiguous meaning: it is a place of testing and trial, but it is also the place where God's presence is revealed. Israel stumbles and complains in the wilderness but also tastes the miracle of God's provision through miraculous offerings of manna and water. Likewise, Jesus will experience the wilderness not only as a terrifying inhospitable environment, but also as a place of abundant grace once the devil left and the angels suddenly appeared and ministered to him.

The wilderness is also a place where Jesus' identity will be put to the test. Having been affirmed as God's beloved at his baptism, Jesus now confronts the tempter's scrutiny. The tempter is not questioning Jesus' identity but is rather calling upon him to explore its implications. The temptations he faces will each in turn urge him to take his relationship to God as a position of privilege, using it to meet his own needs, receive protection from the vulnerability of his humanity, and gain power over all the kingdoms of the world."

The temptation then that we face as baptised Christians is to seek to follow Jesus in a way that by-passes his vocation as the suffering Messiah, broken in every way, yet faithful even until death. Perhaps the first challenge this first Sunday in Lent is to return the wilderness to its undomesticated state.

Reverend Geoff



Last Sunday it was announced that Rev Sam Sadrata has stepped aside from Ministry for a period of time on leave under the pastoral oversight of Presbytery. If you have questions, please contact Rev Simon Hansford, who is the Interim Presbytery Chairperson.