



## Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

18 May 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

### Acts 11:1-18 (NLT)

#### Peter Explains His Actions

**11** Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God.

**2** But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him.

**3** "You entered the home of Gentile and even ate with them!" they said.

**4** Then Peter told them exactly what had happened.

**5** "I was in the town of Joppa," he said, "and while I was praying, I went into a trance and saw a vision. Something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners from the sky. And it came right down to me.

**6** When I looked inside the sheet, I saw all sorts of tame and wild animals, reptiles, and birds.

**7** And I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.'

**8** "No, Lord," I replied. 'I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure or unclean.'

**9** "But the voice from heaven spoke again: 'Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.'

**10** This happened three times before the sheet and all it contained was pulled back up to heaven.

**11** "Just then three men who had been sent from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying.

**12** The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles. These six brothers here accompanied me, and we soon entered the home of the man who had sent for us.

**13** He told us how an angel had appeared to him in his home and had told him, 'Send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. ....continued

### Acts 11:14-18

**14** He will tell you how you and everyone in your household can be saved!' "

**15** "As I began to speak," Peter continued, "the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning.

**16** Then I thought of the Lord's words when he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

**17** And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God's way?"

**18** When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, "We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life."

### John 13:31-35 (NLT)

#### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

**31** As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him.

**32** And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once.

**33** Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going.

**34** So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

**35** Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 148 Revelations 21:1-6





### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the prisoners at Tamworth Correctional Centre who participated in the Christian Kairos programme this week.
- We pray for Daryl Lush and his upcoming surgery.
- We give thanks for the warm autumn we are experiencing.
- We pray for progress towards peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.
- We pray that Nicolette and Richard Willis have a wonderful holiday in Western Australia.

### Meg's Musings

Although it now feels like a long time since the Federal election was held, AEC officials are still busily counting votes.

As of Wednesday, 86.92 percent of votes for the House of Representatives had been counted. Three seats are still too close to call.

In the Senate, 81.8 percent of votes have been counted, and five seats remain in doubt.

For the candidates who don't know whether or not they have been elected, the waiting must be excruciating. They don't know where they are up to. However, as Christians, we always know where we are up to.

We have a God who loves us, and a saviour, Jesus, who gave his life for us.

Although our circumstances change from time to time, and life holds uncertainties, we always know where we are up to with God.

We are His, forever.

*Blessing from Meg*



### CHURCH SERVICES



**25 May 11am West ~ Rev Geoff Flynn**

### 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

Love One Another – That's an Order If you knew you were about to die, what would you tell the people you love? What hope or prayer for the future would you share? What last, urgent piece of advice would you offer?

In John 13, our Gospel reading for this week, we hear Jesus' answer to this challenging question. Judas has left the Last Supper and is on his way to betray Jesus, the clock is ticking, and Jesus knows that his death is imminent. Jesus is concerned that his disciples are about to experience a major grief and so he gets right to the point. No parables, stories, or syrupy clichés just a single straightforward commandment which summarizes Jesus' deepest yearning for his closest companions:

*"Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*

Jesus then immediately offers a promise. Or is it an incentive or perhaps even a warning?

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Take a moment to consider what Jesus didn't say as his parting words of advice. He doesn't say, "Believe the right things." or "teach the right things"

He doesn't say, "Worship this way" or "go to church this often".

He doesn't even say, "Read your Bible," or "Pray every day," or "Preach the Gospel to every living person."

Jesus reduces the essence of Christianity down to three words.

*"Love one another."*

That's it, a command so simple that it could easily be memorised by a preschooler and yet so weighty that even the most mature Christian will be embarrassed by how poorly they understand it and put it into practice. All of Christianity distilled down to its essence so that maybe we'll pause long enough to hear it.

*Love one another.*

Jesus' commandment to us is not that we should exhaust ourselves, trying to manufacture love from our own easily depleted resources. It invites us to dwell in the sacred source of all love. We can make our home in Jesus' love—the most abundant and inexhaustible love in existence. Then our love is not our own because it reflects God's love for us, a love that is unlimited unconditional and universal.

*"Love one another as I have loved you."*

Rev Geoff



A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved  
you,  
that you love one another as I have loved  
you.  
By this shall all know that you are my  
disciples,  
if you have love one for another;  
by this shall all know that you are my  
disciples:  
if you have love one for another.

~ Roy Crabtree

For all he came, for all he lived,  
For all his ministry,  
For all his sacrifice in death,  
For all the world, and me:  
For every colour, race or creed,  
For every state of mind,  
For all of good intent, or ill,  
For all our human kind.  
Our every weakness shows his strength,  
his power for all made free;  
to know of capture by his love  
is perfect liberty.  
For all the world Christ Jesus lives,  
For strangers and for friends;  
'Go into all the world' - and own  
the Life that never ends. ~ Beverly Jones 1983

#### Presbytery Project Information Session

When: 3.00 - 5.00 pm Wednesday 28 May  
Where: Tamworth Southside Uniting Church  
In a significant decision, Presbytery leaders  
reached a consensus to bring forward a  
transformative proposal at the Synod meeting in  
July 2025, aimed at dissolving our 12 existing  
Presbyteries, and creating 3 new, larger, better  
resourced and Presbyteries. This is a bold  
proposal to move beyond structural changes to  
empower congregations in mission by rethinking  
culture, staffing, and funding. Rev. Dr Robert  
McFarlane, the Presbytery Relations Minister  
will lead this "town hall" meeting via  
zoom. RSVP Rev Geoff Flynn



"It's a quiet night tonight, isn't  
it, Piglet?" said Pooh, gazing up  
at the stars.

"It certainly is," said Piglet, his little paw  
resting on his friend's.

"What do you think the stars talk about?"  
asked Pooh. "When we're not listening, I  
mean."

Piglet thought for a moment. "I think they  
talk about light," he said. "About how even in  
the darkest skies, they shine as best as they  
can, no matter how small they are. Because  
they know someone, somewhere, is looking up  
and needs to see them."

Pooh smiled. "That's a lovely thought, Piglet.  
Do you think we're like that too? Little stars,  
shining for each other?"

Piglet nodded. "Yes, Pooh. I think that's what  
we're meant to do. To be a little light for  
someone, even when the night feels very big  
and very dark."

Pooh sat quietly for a moment, then said, "If  
that's true, Piglet, then I think you're the  
brightest star I know. Even on my gloomiest  
days, you make me feel like everything will  
be alright."

"And you're mine, Pooh," said Piglet, softly.  
"Because with you, I always feel safe, even  
when the woods seem scary, or the path isn't  
clear."

The two friends sat together  
under the stars, wrapped in the  
kind of quiet love that doesn't  
need grand gestures or fancy words. Just  
presence. Just care. Just two lights shining  
for each other in the great big world.



"What do you think we should do tomorrow?"  
asked Pooh after a while.

"I think we should just keep shining," said  
Piglet.

And so they did. Together. Always.



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**Open 9:30 to 1:00pm Friday &**  
**Saturday**

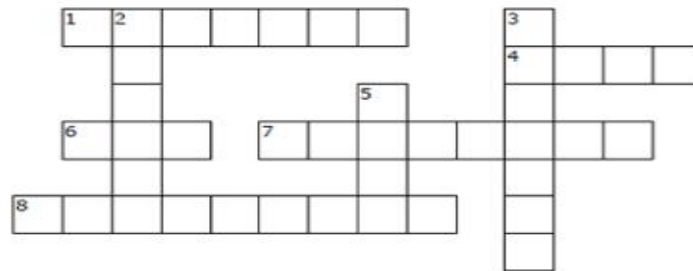
..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

# A New Commandment

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

This puzzle is based on John 13:31-35 (NIV)

"Love one another as I have loved you."



## ACROSS

1. An order or a rule given with authority
4. To have feelings of compassion and concern for another person
6. The opposite of old
7. Boys and girls between birth and puberty
8. Those who follow the teachings of Jesus

## DOWN

2. People aside from oneself
3. To give praise and honour to God or a person
5. A period of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, etc.

CHILDREN GLORIFY	COMMAND DISCIPLES	LOVE NEW	OTHERS TIME
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C A M L J E W S A R P G O G F  
 N Q V N U J K R U G D U E K D  
 M B B G J M J J Y M B H L J Q  
 C U M C L P Y J X D J L O L N  
 N V L H D O N Y F N E G G A N  
 X K R K P D R L S Q S A I E R  
 A N F E J I K I P P U R R E Z  
 R O J P A S L J F U S D H S D  
 S W Z Z K C G Q H Y L T U N E  
 L Y M O X I L K W I O G A O E  
 G O E N L P O B H N Z M D V Y  
 G I N O S L O C A D M L O S G  
 S G V G E E K P U O O L Z M P  
 F N T E E S N Q C T Z I T E B  
 F A X R K R X L I T T L E J D

COMMAND TOLD LOOK	KNOW JESUS LONGER	DISCIPLES CHILDREN MEN	ANOTHER JEWS LOVE	GLORIFY LITTLE GIVE
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~ Sermons 4 Kids

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