



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

22 May 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Luke 8:26-39 (NLT)

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man

²⁶ So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee.

²⁷ As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town.

²⁸ As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!"

²⁹ For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power.

³⁰ Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons.

³¹ The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

³² There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.

So Jesus gave them permission.

³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran.continued

Compassion is the basis of morality.

~ Arthur Schopenhauer

Luke 8:35-39

³⁵ People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.

³⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

³⁷ And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake.

³⁸ The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying,

³⁹ "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

Other Lectionary Readings:

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalms 42 and 43 Psalm 22: 19-28

Galatians 3:23-29 Psalms 100

2 Chronicles 30:1-9



Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive. ~ Dalai Lama

CHURCH SERVICES

29 June 11am Southside

COMBINED UCA ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Rev Sam Sadrata and Rev Geoff Flynn will be leading our time of worship together.

No other services today.

Stay and join us for lunch.



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Tina, Beth and Peter. Tina remains in ICU for the moment.
- We pray for wisdom for world leaders - especially in relation to finding a peaceful way forward in the Middle East, and in Ukraine.
- We pray for the members of our congregation who have health issues at the moment.
- We are thankful for the number of flowers blooming at the moment - a true pick-me-up on a cold winters day.
- We pray for the families of each of our members.

Meg's Musings

Yesterday I was driving past the pond which has been created to contain the run-off water from the racecourse and the lower part of Taminda.

There were 2 pelicans floating on it.

I wanted to call out to them, "Don't you know that Lake Eyre is full, and it's absolutely fabulous?"

It seemed to me that the pelicans were making do with second-best!

But we, too, often make do with second-best.

God offers each one of us a relationship second-to-none.

What do we do? Often, we just forge ahead using our own limited resources, and ignore the blessings which God is so eager to pour out on us.

Like those 2 pelicans, we're oblivious to what we're missing out on.

Blessing from Meg



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Peel Valley Congregation is currently collecting items for children.

Contact Meg for more information or ideas as to what to donate.



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



John 17:1-11 (NLT)

The Prayer of Jesus

17 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.

² For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him.

³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

⁴ I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

⁵ Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

⁶ "I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, ⁸ for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

⁹ "My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory.

¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.



In Finland, there's an idea called "hiljaisuus," the quiet kind of bonding where you don't have to

entertain, perform, or even speak.

Just existing side by side is enough.

No small talk.

Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter – 48th Years Anniversary!!!

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church, we find ourselves in a deeply reflective and hopeful moment. The Scriptures set before us today — from Ephesians 2 and John 17 — are not just theological treasures; they are timely words for us as a regional church community discerning who we are, and who we are becoming.

Paul, in our Epistle reading, reminds the early church — a community of Jews and Gentiles, once divided — that “you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” That’s us. This is a word about unity — not unity through sameness, but through reconciliation in Christ.

In our own Uniting Church story, we hear echoes of this: Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists — three streams, once distinct, brought together by the Spirit into one body. Not by force or assimilation, but by covenant and calling. Forty years on, that identity still matters.

We have just done a SWOT analysis, identifying our strengths and struggles, our opportunities and threats. We see clearly that we are not strangers to each other — even when we come from different congregations or worship styles. We are being built together, “on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” The church is not static. We are being built. We are growing. God is not finished with us yet. Jesus’ prayer for his followers before his arrest. “Holy Father, protect them... so that they may be one, as we are one.” This is Trinity-shaped unity. Not uniformity, but deep communion — love, purpose, relationship. This connects beautifully with Trinity Sunday, which we just observed. The Trinity is not a theological puzzle to solve but a relationship to live in — Father, Son, Spirit: distinct, yet one. Mutual love, shared life, unity in diversity.

That is what Jesus prays for. And that’s what the Uniting Church has been striving to live into for forty years — unity, not for its own sake, but for witness. “So that the world may believe.” Our unity is missional. It points beyond us... ..contunied

During our SWOT analysis, we named real challenges: ageing congregations, declining numbers, stretched resources. But we also named God-given strengths: deep relationships, dedicated leaders, caring communities, and faith that endures. What might it look like if we took Jesus’ prayer and Paul’s vision seriously?

- What if we saw our regional churches not as separate outposts, but as living stones in the same temple?
 - What if our planning and resourcing reflected not just sustainability, but shared purpose in Christ?
 - What if we looked at our buildings, our liturgies, our leadership not as things to preserve, but as gifts to adapt and share for the sake of the Gospel?
- That’s what anniversaries are for — not nostalgia, but discernment. Where have we come from? What holds us together? Where is the Spirit leading us now? Let’s remember Paul words to us. “the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” That’s what we are. And Jesus prays that we may be one — not for comfort, but for mission. So, may we continue to be a church that listens for the Spirit. A church that risks loving across boundaries. A church that bears witness to a God who is always calling us deeper into unity, purpose, and hope.

Not perfect. Not finished.

But being built together in Christ.

Amen

Rev Sam



Ephesians 2:19-2 (NLT)

A Temple for the Lord

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.



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

I will never forget those who came with a lamp when I was in the dark. Not to fix me, just to sit beside me until I could see again.

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

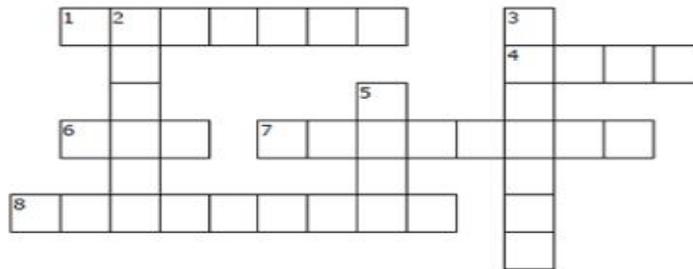
A New Commandment

"Love one another as I have loved you."



"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)



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