



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

27 July 2025

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Colossians 2:6-15-19 (NLT)

Freedom from Rules and New Life in Christ

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

¹¹ When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.

¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Luke 11:1-13 (NLT)

Teaching about Prayer

¹¹ Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

³ Give us each day the food we need,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation."

⁵ Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, '⁶ A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.'⁷ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.'⁸ But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

⁹ "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead?

¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for the sunshine, and the rain, which we've been blessed with this week.
- Our hearts, and our prayers go out to the people of the Middle East, and Ukraine. We pray for people who have been injured and/or bereaved.
- We pray for our Tamworth community.
- We thank God for the people, and things, which bring us joy.
- We pray for safety for Beulah's family members as they travel back home after yesterday's celebrations.

Meg's Musings

This week I began the task of pruning our roses. I enjoy the task, but always find it difficult to judge how much of the plants to prune back. It means that I begin the task tentatively, and then, over the following weeks, prune back more of the bush as the new bud nodes begin to show more prominently. The process reminds me a bit of how Leonardo da Vinci described the process of sculpting. He said that it was a matter of chipping away until the form which already existed within the marble was revealed. As I keep an eye out for the signs from the rose bushes, they take shape. When I tune in carefully to God, I can better hear him speaking to me, and helping me to understand the "shape" my life should take.

Blessing from Meg



Happy Birthday Beulah

Happy birthday
to a very
SPECIAL
person!

Dear God, we thank you for your gift of Beulah's life. We ask you to Bless Beulah in the coming year. Fill her heart with joy and surround her with your love. *Amen*

Other Lectionary Readings:

Hosea 1:2-10 Psalms 85



TRUC 5th Sunday @ Hallsville
Worship, Fellowship & Lunch, hosted by
the Peel Valley Congregations



Combined Tamworth
Regional Uniting
Churches worship
together
at Hallsville on
**Sunday, 31 August at
11am.**
Stay and enjoy
fellowship over a meal
together.
**NB NO OTHER
SERVICES.**

Ministers Weekly Reflection

Learning to Pray

This Sunday our Gospel reading from Luke 11:1-11 contains Jesus' answer to his disciple's question, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus' disciples needed to be taught to pray for several reasons:

1. Prayer is a fundamental aspect of spiritual growth and connection with God. By teaching His disciples to pray, Jesus was helping them develop a deeper relationship with God and understand the importance of communication with the divine.
2. Prayer provides guidance and support in times of need. Jesus wanted his disciples to know how to seek God's wisdom and strength through prayer, especially when facing challenges and making important decisions.
3. Prayer fosters a sense of community and unity among believers. Jesus taught His disciples to pray together, reinforcing the idea that they were part of a larger spiritual family and encouraging mutual support and solidarity.

One of the hardest lessons to learn about prayer is evoked by the words of Jesus in Luke 11:9 "Ask and it shall be given to you." These words can easily suggest that prayer is like a letter to Santa Clause, a list of things wanted. If the requested present arrives, then it is assumed that God is pleased with the request and with the faithfulness of the pray-er. If the present doesn't arrive then there are several strategies we use such as "Now is not the right time" or "God knows what is best for us."

Rev Janet Dawson in her reflection on prayer writes, "If you are praying for a raise in salary or a new car these rationalisations might work quite well, but if the prayer is for something serious, perhaps healing or freedom from pain, they are a bit thin."

Philip Yancy in his book "Prayer: Does it make any difference?" stresses that prayer does not work according to a fixed formula: get your life in order, say the right words and, and the desired result will come. "If that were true Job would have avoided much suffering, Paul would have shed his thorn in the flesh and Jesus would never have gone to Golgotha."

Yancy takes "odd comfort" in the fact that the bible itself includes numerous prayers that went unanswered. Could it be that the mystery of these unanswered prayers teaches us to simply wait? For those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall walk and not fall exhausted.

Reverend Geoff



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

To have, or not to have, a "scrupulus." "Scruple" is one of the most fascinating words in the dictionary. The primary definition is: "A doubt or hesitation that pricks the conscience about whether something is right or wrong."



But did you know? "Scruple" comes from the Latin *scrupulus*—literally, "a small, sharp stone."

In ancient Rome, legionaries often encountered these little stones in their sandals (*caligae*) during long marches. The stones would wedge between the sole and the foot, causing persistent discomfort. The soldiers then faced a tough choice: endure the pain and keep moving, or stop to remove the pebble—risking the wrath of their superiors for slowing the march. Meanwhile, the tribunes, senators, and other authorities, traveling comfortably on horseback or in litters, didn't have to deal with such problems. For them, "scrupulus" didn't exist. That's where the idea comes from that "people in power have no scruples." Over time, the phrase "to have scruples" moved beyond the military and came to mean any hesitation about what's right or wrong—a moral pebble in your shoe. And so, a person "without scruples" is someone who feels no prick of conscience holding them back.

~ "Fragments of History."

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

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

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elder: Margaret Crowell

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Haruka Nishimatsu, the former CEO of Japan Airlines, set an inspiring example of leadership and integrity during a financial crisis.

Instead of laying off employees, he took a massive pay cut, reducing his salary to \$90,000—less than what some of his pilots earned. He also gave up executive privileges, opting to use public transportation instead of company cars. Rather than isolating himself in a private office, he worked alongside employees in an open workspace, fostering a sense of equality and teamwork.

Nishimatsu also avoided luxury expenses, choosing to wear affordable suits and live modestly while steering the company through tough times. His approach emphasised ethics, financial responsibility, and employee well-being over personal gain.

While many corporate leaders prioritise profits, Nishimatsu's humility and accountability earned him deep respect. His leadership not only stabilized the airline but also strengthened employee trust and loyalty, setting a rare example in the business world. ~ unknownfacts

Leadership isn't about rising above others. It's about rising with them.



Every day your wake up is an amazing gift. It's up to you to make each day count. ~ anon

Pray as you can, not as you can't.

~ Dom Chapman.



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Friday & Saturday

Cuppa and a chat always available

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

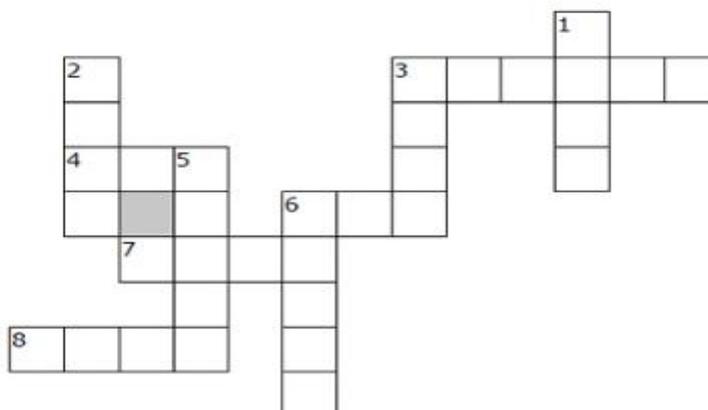
Jesus Teaches about Prayer

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

Based on Luke 11:1-9



Ask
Seek
Knock



ACROSS

3. A person you know, like, and trust
4. To make a request for something
6. A piece of furniture for sleeping
7. A movable structure used to close off an entrance to a room
8. A device operated by a key and used to keep a door from being opened

DOWN

1. To look for something
2. To talk to God
3. To locate something by searching for it
5. To stike a series of blows with your fist, as on a door
6. A food made from flour mixed water and other ingredients, then baked in an oven

LOCK BED	FIND SEEK	FRIEND KNOCK	PRAY ASK	DOOR BREAD
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P R A Y Y B S L E F X E B P H
 U K I N G D O M L T S P D Q A
 A Y Z A U B Q Q S E E E R X L
 U Q B S B U R W F Z A A E G L
 O R R K P U J I U R Z D C K O
 O N E O L F N P I P I A Q H W
 T A A P X A A F V I X E M M E
 E M D E D M F T W T F S N U D
 M E C N H R D O H N L F B D W
 P P K K R N E G R E S M Y Y U
 A V N I I Q I C C G R T C D Y
 T N O F U N J C E S I N S A O
 I J C W D K S D G I J V Q I A
 O Q K I F B E K P I V J E L A
 N M M W N M J J P V W E M Y P

FIND SEEK MIDNIGHT SINS	PRAY FATHER DAILY KINGDOM	OPEN NAME TEACH HALLOWED	TEMPATION KNOCK LEAD FORGIVE	FRIEND RECEIVE BREAD ASK
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~ Sermons 4 Kids

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