



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

10 August 2025

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NLT)

Great Examples of Faith

¹¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.

³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

⁸ It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.

⁹ And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise.

¹⁰ Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

¹¹ It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise.

¹² And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.

¹³ All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.

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Hebrews 11:15-16

¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back.

¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12: 32-40 (NLT)

³² "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

³³ "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it.

³⁴ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Be Ready for the Lord's Coming

³⁵ "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks.

³⁷ The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!

³⁸ He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

³⁹ "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into.

⁴⁰ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for competent surgeons and our bodies' ability to heal.... and that Rev Geoff and Meg came through surgery well last week.
- We pray that world leaders will speak up against the starvation in Gaza, and the bombing of civilian targets in Ukraine.
- We pray for everyone whose properties were affected by the floods earlier this week.
- We give thanks for sunshine.
- We pray for the children who will receive our Operation Christmas Child boxes later this year.

Meg's Musings

This weeks' gospel reading begins with the words, "So don't be afraid, little flock..." Those words speak to me of Jesus' tenderness, and a great understanding of the problems and difficulties which face each and every one of us. I see our Peel Valley congregation as "a little flock", and am always happy to see the way in which we help one another to meet life's ups and downs. We're there for one another - just as Jesus was there for his disciples when they got confused, or side-tracked or a bit lost. Perhaps, as Christians, we are called to a part of "flocks" of various people throughout our lives....to walk with them, and to be there for them. Sometimes we choose our flock, and sometimes a flock chooses us - and perhaps God places us where we are most needed!

Blessing from Meg



Wishing

Do you wish the world were better?
 Let me tell you what to do:
 Set a watch for your actions,
 Keep them always straight and true;
 Rid your mind of selfish motives;
 Let your thoughts be clean and high.
 You can make a little Eden
 Of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser?
 Well, suppose you made a start,
 By accumulating wisdom
 In the scrapbook of your heart:
 Do not waste one page on folly;
 Live to learn, and learn to live.
 If you want to give men knowledge
 You must get it, ere you give.

Do you wish the world were happy?
 Then remember day by day
 Just to scatter seeds of kindness
 As you pass along the way;
 For the pleasures of the many
 May ofttimes traced to one,
 As the hand that plants an acorn
 Shelters armies from the sun.

~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

CHURCH SERVICES

10 August 11am West ~ Rev Geoff 

17 August 11am West ~ Sharon Flynn

24 August 11am West ~ Jennifer Battle

31 August 11am Hallsville ~ Combined Tamworth Regional Churches worship



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.**

No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted. ~ Aesop



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A hands-on way to demonstrate God's love to children in need across the world, by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. We collect the boxes and distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in vulnerable situations.

~ samaritanspurse.org.au

If we're kind and polite, the world will be right. ~ Paddington Bear.

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



Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter – Minister's reflection

Out here in the Tamworth region, and perhaps it is true for rural regions across Australia – we know what it means and takes to live with uncertainty. The droughts, floods, economic pressures, and flow of life on the land means that we are no strangers to faith. We plant without knowing if the rain will come. We breed stock, not always sure if prices will hold. We build a life on the land knowing that much is beyond your control. And in many ways, that is what faith is. It is not a naive hope that everything will turn out well, but a deep trust in the God who holds us even when outcomes are unclear.

Our Epistle reading shows that "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Abraham and Sarah were called to go, to leave everything familiar and to follow God's call into the unknown. That takes trust required to make a life in rural Australia. It's not for the faint-hearted. But our forebears in faith, like Abraham and Sarah, show us what it means to trust in promises not yet fulfilled.

They lived and was called home "without having received the promises," ... "but from a distance they saw and greeted them." Paul writes. I wonder if you resonated with that sentence. I mean we labour, we sow, we nurture, and we may not always see the fruits of our faith in full bloom in our time. But we press on, because we trust in a God who is faithful. Jesus speaks right into our worry. "Do not be afraid, little flock." Tender words for people like us who often carry heavy burdens of family, finances, crops, health, and the wellbeing of our communities. Jesus reminds us that the kingdom is not earned nor bought, it is given. Freely. Generously.

Yet Christ speaks again against the secular world view of 'having more we have is good' and calls us to rather store up treasures in heaven. Not in bank accounts, not in Silos, not even in land but in the things that lasts like mercy, generosity, love, justice, hospitality, forgiveness.

In the bush, we know the value of hard work. Though Christ encourages us to be careful not to put your ultimate hope in things that rust, rot, or can be taken. We are encouraged to treasure relationships, community, kindness, and integrity. To set our hearts on things above; those are what endure.

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A personal observation since arriving in Tamworth coupled with lyrics from Kenny Roger's song 'If you want to find love'. 'If you want to find gold go looking in the mountains, if you want to find silver go digging in the stone, if you want to find Heaven go reading in the bible, if you want to find love go looking at home'. And here at home regional country town, I saw and met some of the most generous, faithful people since arriving 1 year ago. People who don't have much materially, but they show up and give a hand in our Op Shops, a listening ear during morning tea, volunteer in Stepping stones, they give, they care, they pray, they serve. People choosing to invest in community, not just profits.

For our Uniting Church communities across Tamworth, this text is a powerful reminder to reflect on what we value, what we nurture, and what we pass on matters deeply. Whether it's in the way we care for our neighbour, welcome the stranger, or steward the land, these are kingdom investments. It speaks directly to the readiness required in rural life. To be prepared for what may come yet always trusting that God is already at work ahead of us. It's a call to live watchfully, not anxiously; to be ready for God's coming not just in grand miracles, but in small daily encounters with our eyes fixed not just on the horizon, but on the heart of God.

Let our treasure be the work of God among us.
In faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

Rev Sam



Other Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalms 50:1-8. 22-23



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm Friday &

Saturday Cuppa & chat always available

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

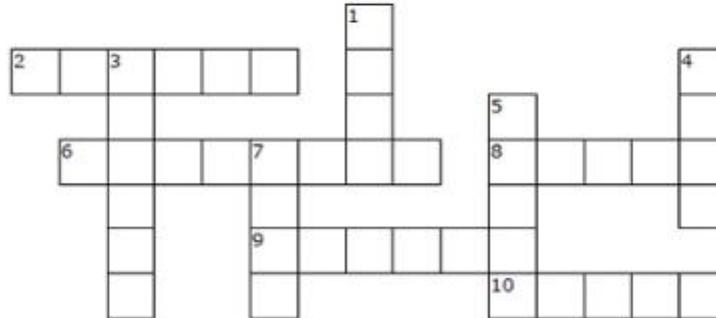
P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



Treasures in Heaven

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 Luke 12:34 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 12:32-34 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The home where we will live forever with God
6. Valuable things such as gold, silver, jewels, or money
8. The organ that pumps blood through the body
9. Small in size
10. A group of sheep that live or feed together

DOWN

1. Having little money or possessions
3. Filled with fear
4. An insect with wings similar to a butterfly, usually flies at night, and is attracted to light
5. Someone who steals
7. To exchange or deliver something for money

heaven	treasure	sell	moth	flock
thief	heart	afraid	little	poor

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

PURSES	DESTROYS	FATHER	POSSESSIONS	HEAVEN
PLEASED	WEAR	KINGDOM	LUKE	FLOCK
EXHAUSTED	MOTH	HEART	AFRAID	SELL
POOR	TREASURE	THIEF	LITTLE	GIVE

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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