



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

14 September 2025

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan

**Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)**

### The First Disciples

**5** One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God.

**2** He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.

**3** Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

**4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

**5** "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

**6** And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!

**7** A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

**8** When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man."

**9** For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

**10** His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"

**11** And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus

### He Ain't Heavy - He's My Brother

In his 1884 book *The Parables of Jesus*, James Wells, Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland, tells the story of a little girl carrying a big baby boy. Seeing her struggling, someone asked if she wasn't tired. With surprise she replied: "No, he's not heavy; he's my brother."

In a 1918 publication by Ralph Waldo Trine titled *The Higher Powers of Mind and Spirit*, Trine relates the following anecdote: "Do you know that incident in connection with the little Scottish girl? She was trudging along, carrying as best she could a boy younger, but it seemed almost as big as she herself, when one remarked to her how heavy he must be for her to carry, when instantly came the reply: 'He's na heavy. He's mi brither.'"

The first editor of *Kiwanis* magazine, Roe Fulkerson, published a column in September 1924 carrying the title "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother", the first use of the phrase exactly as it is rendered in the song title.

In the 1940s, the words, adapted as "He ain't heavy, Father, he's my brother", were taken as a slogan for Boys Town children's home by founder Father Edward Flanagan. According to the Boys Town website, the phrase as used by Boys Town was said to Fr. Flanagan in 1918 by one of the residents while carrying another up a set of stairs. The boy being carried is said to have had polio and worn leg braces.

~ Wikipedia -a ballad written by Bobby Scott and Bob Russell. Originally recorded by Kelly Gordon in 1969

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalms 14

1 Timothy 12-17

Luke 15:1-10



Never let your emotions overpower your intelligence. ~ Drake

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." ~ Confucius

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to hold Judy in our prayers. Her back is still very painful.
- We pray for Laurie, whose health is deteriorating.
- We give thanks for the beauty of God's world.
- We continue to pray for the people of the Middle East, and the people of Ukraine.
- We give thanks for each member of our congregation, and our Fab Finds volunteers. We thank God for how much we mean to one another.



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

### Op Shop news. THANK YOU !!!

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who worked at Fab Finds this week changing over the clothing from winter to summer. It's a really big task, and one that was completed with grace and humour. Well done ladies.



If you collect 100 black ants and 100 fire ants and put them in a glass jar nothing will happen.

But if you take the jar, shake it violently and leave it on the table, the ants will start killing each other.

Reds believe that black is the enemy, while black believes that red is the enemy, when the real enemy is the person who shook the jar. The same is true in society.

Men vs Women Black vs White Faith vs Science Youngs vs Old etc...

Before we fight each other, we must ask ourselves: **Who rocked the jar?**

~ David Attenborough

Life is a question and how we live it is our answer. ~ Gary Keller

**CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth**  
**21 September ~ Evelyn Orr**  
**28 September ~ Rev Sam Sadrata**



### He ain't heavy

The road is long  
 With many a winding turn  
 That leads us to who knows where, who knows where  
 But I'm strong  
 Strong enough to carry him  
 He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
 So on we go  
 His welfare is of my concern  
 No burden is he to bear  
 We'll get there  
 For I know  
 He would not encumber me  
 He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
 If I'm laden at all  
 I'm laden with sadness  
 That everyone's heart  
 Isn't filled with the gladness  
 Of love for one another  
 It's a long, long road  
 From which there is no return  
 While we're on the way to there  
 Why not share?  
 And the load  
 Doesn't weigh me down at all  
 He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
 He's my brother  
 He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
 He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
 ~ Songwriters: Bob Russell / Bobby Scott

### 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**



## Ministers Weekly Reflection

### Christian Ecotheology

While preparing for the baptism of Elena on at City Church on Sunday and prayerfully considering how baptism might relate to our focus on Seasons of Creation I came across this quote from Stephen Holmes *Absence of Christian theology*  
*“On the 9 May 2024 faith leaders, leading scientists, and members of civil society in Scotland gathered to collectively declare the strong moral and scientific imperative for renewed and urgent action to tackle the climate crisis in response to Scottish Government’s inability to meet key climate targets and they issued a document. The scientists spoke about science and evidence, civil society activists spoke about the action needed to be taken in society, but while the religious leaders spoke about morality and the dignity of human life and creation, everything they said would have been acceptable to a well-meaning atheist (even creation is commonly used without reference to a creator).”*

This challenged me as to whether we in the UCA are reluctant to speak about our unique Christian Theology when it comes to speaking into the current ecological crisis. Is our theological formation inadequate? Have we replaced a distinctive Christian perspective by a vague moral humanism? Or is our strong faith constrained by a fear of appearing exclusivist or intolerant?

These are important questions for us to consider. If we lose or have lost our confidence to proclaim Christ in ecological conversations, then it may reveal part of the reason for the why we there is no revival of faith in Christ. If church leaders cannot show the value of anything specifically Christian, then why should anyone wish to join Christ’s Church?

The rite used to welcome adults into membership of the one holy apostolic and catholic church is Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As Christians our relationship with God’s *creation is defined by the words of the Nicene Creed.*

*‘We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ.. through him all things were made... We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.’*

The environmental crisis is not just a technological difficulty, which can be cured by scientific modification. It is the result and violent indicator of a spiritual crisis and can only be healed by a spiritual transformation. We need to go deeper, and Christ can be our guide.

Rev Geoff



## Job 38:1-18 (NLT)

### The LORD Challenges Job

**38** Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup> “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?

<sup>3</sup> Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell me, if you know so much.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line?

<sup>6</sup> What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> “Who kept the sea inside its boundaries as it burst from the womb,

<sup>9</sup> and as I clothed it with clouds and wrapped it in thick darkness?

<sup>10</sup> For I locked it behind barred gates, limiting its shores.

<sup>11</sup> I said, ‘This far and no farther will you come.

Here your proud waves must stop!’

<sup>12</sup> “Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east?

<sup>13</sup> Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth, to bring an end to the night’s wickedness?

<sup>14</sup> As the light approaches, the earth takes shape like clay pressed beneath a seal; it is robed in brilliant colors.

<sup>15</sup> The light disturbs the wicked and stops the arm that is raised in violence.

<sup>16</sup> “Have you explored the springs from which the seas come?

Have you explored their depths?

<sup>17</sup> Do you know where the gates of death are located?

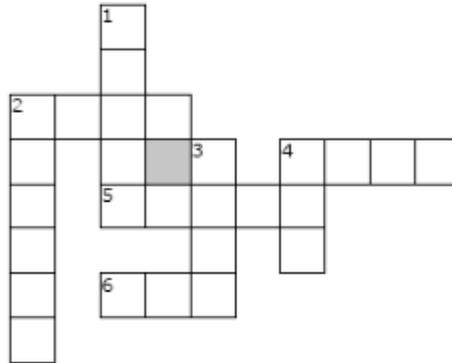
Have you seen the gates of utter gloom?

<sup>18</sup> Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!

# Fishing for People

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" Luke 5:10b (NLT)

This puzzle is based on Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)



## ACROSS

2. An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales
4. To go down below the surface of the water
5. The land along the edge of an ocean, sea, lake, or river
6. An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish

## DOWN

1. The Son of God
2. To get behind someone and go where they go
3. A small vehicle for traveling on water
4. A large area of water, smaller than an ocean

Jesus	net	fish	sink
shore	boat	sea	follow

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

Peter	people	deep	washing	nets
shore	preaching	fishing	boats	Jesus
sinking	afraid	Sea	Galilee	fishermen

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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