



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

7 December 2025 Rev Geoff Flynn Rev Sam Sadrata Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NLT)

A Branch from David's Line

- ¹ Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.
- ² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.
- ⁴ He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.
- ⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.
- ⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.
- ⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.
- ⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.
- ⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.
- ¹⁰ In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

Matthew 3:1-12 (NLT)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- 3** In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,
“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming! Clear the road for him!’”
- ⁴ John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.
- ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.
- ¹¹“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Barbara, Juanita and Ben, as well as the wider Whitham family, as they mourn the loss of Eddy.
- We thank God that Eddy has acted as "Uncle" to hundreds of migrants who have resettled in Tamworth.
- We pray for migrants everywhere - that they might find people to accept them, and to "show them the ropes".
- We give thanks for the cooler weather earlier in the week - it was very refreshing!
- We pray for the children who will receive Operation Christmas Child boxes this month.

Meg's Musings

Eddie Whitham was a friend to Laurie and myself, and to all the members of our family.

You could say that he was a friend to almost everyone in Tamworth.

He was an astute businessman, but his business was based on friendship and relationships.

If he heard that a bank or office was refurbishing, Eddie would ask the question of the manager, "Can I help you by quoting on taking the old furniture?"

He turned a potential problem into an offer of assistance.

Those offers of assistance included helping people find employment, somewhere to live, and contact with people of similar ethnicity.

His was passionately interested in where people were from, and what they had left behind.

He also cared about what people were seeking to find in Tamworth.... and did his best to help it happen.

Eddie will be greatly missed: he was someone who listened for God's leading.

Blessing from Meg



Be the one to stand out in the crowd,
Be the one to go where they'd rather not.
Beautiful things don't beg for a chance to glow
They throw out their lights and just shine out loud!" ~ Chinonye J. Chidolue

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13



Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter Minister's reflection

Matthew places John the Baptist out in the wilderness, calling Israel to prepare the way of the Lord (Matt 3:1-12). His message isn't polite rather it is urgent, unsettling, almost abrasive. But the wilderness is often where God's people hear truth most clearly. The wilderness strips away illusions. It asks us who we really are and what we truly desire.

Isaiah, meanwhile, imagines a shoot from the stump of Jesse, life surprising us from what we thought was finished (Isa 11:1-10). Where Israel saw a dead stump, God saw a beginning. Where we see limits, God sees a future. From that fragile shoot emerges a kingdom defined by justice, mercy, and radical peace - wolves and lambs dwelling together, children playing without fear, a world soaked in the knowledge of God.

During our Advent studies these past weeks, we've been reflecting on what faithful waiting looks like. Advent week two, Peace, asks us not only to wait for Christ's coming but to align ourselves with the world Christ is bringing. John calls us to repent not simply so we feel forgiven, but so our lives create space for God's reign. Isaiah shows us what that reign is like, so that we can begin living its values now.

So what does this mean for us?

If the Messiah comes to establish justice for the poor, then God's people cannot be indifferent to those who struggle. If Christ comes as the Prince of Peace, then our speech, our choices, and our relationships must resist the easy currents of anger and division.

If God is bringing forth life from stumps, then we cannot give up on people or even on ourselves.

If the knowledge of God is to cover the earth like water over the sea, then our task is to embody that knowledge in small but faithful ways in patience, in generosity, in courage, in compassion.

As a community, we have launched the Tamworth Regional Uniting Church Sunday 30th November. There we were committed to walk in the light of God as we embark on this journey as people on the way. We also carry the grief of losing Eddie Whitham, whose passing leaves a tender ache among us. In remembering Eddie, we remember that Advent hope is not naïve. It speaks right into the real experiences of loss. It tells us that the God who brings shoots from stumps also brings life from death and gathers God's people into eternal peace.

So as we keep walking this Advent path, may we respond to John's call with honesty, and to Isaiah's vision with imagination. May we be imperfectly but intentional people who live the future God has promised, right here in the present.

Rev Sam Sadrata



Happy Christmas (War Is Over)"

So this is Christmas
and what have you done another year over
a new one just begun
and so this Christmas
I hope you have fun
the near and the dear one
the old and the young.
A merry merry Christmas
and happy New Year
let's hope it's a good one
without any fear.

And, so this is Christmas (*war is over*)
for weak and for strong (*if you want it*)
for rich and the poor ones (*War is over now*)
the road is so long
and so happy Christmas
for black and for white
for the yellow and red ones
let's stop all the fight.

A merry merry Christmas
and happy New Year
let's hope it's a good one
without any fear.

And, so this is Christmas
and what have we done another year over
a new one just begun
and, so happy Christmas
we hope we have fun
the near and the dear one
the old and the young.
A merry merry Christmas
and happy New Year
let's hope it's a good one
without any fear.

(War is over if you Want it war is over now)

~ John Lennon

Peel Valley Congregation
18 January, 2026 Country Gospel
Breakfast at Hallsville.



4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets
Next Market 25 January



Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

~ Calvin Coolidge



As Christmas comes, soft and still,
May the spirit of peace gently fill
Your heart and home with love and goodwill.



~ anon

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

14 December ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

21 December ~ Meg Mangan

Baptism followed by lunch:

The Courts Restaurant



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Worship

24 December 7.30pm City Church

24 December 11pm Southside Church

Christmas Day Service

25 December 9am Southside Church

25 December 11am City Church



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday

& Saturday Cuppa and a 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

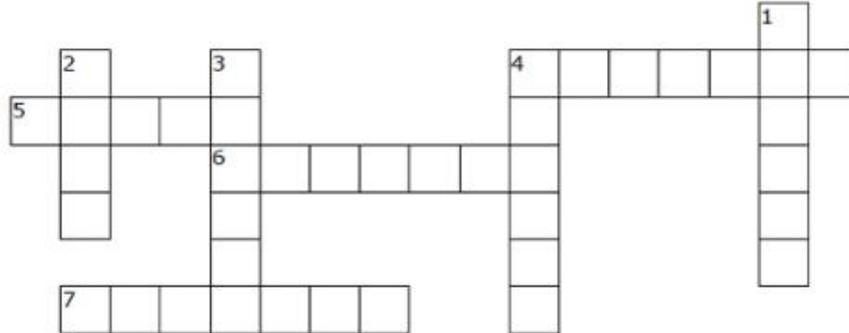


..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE	PREPARE	DESERT	PROPHET
REPENT	JOHN	PREACH	BAPTIZE

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

LORD	PREPARE	KINGDOM	JOHN	HAIR
BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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