



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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

## John 6:24-35 (NLT)

<sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him.

<sup>25</sup> They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs.

<sup>27</sup> But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

<sup>30</sup> They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?"

<sup>31</sup> After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven.

<sup>33</sup> The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

<sup>34</sup> "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

## Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

### The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

<sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

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

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16    Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7





### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Beulah's health.
- Our prayers reach around the world to the family of Eddie Whitham.
- We pray for Judy Lennon, who is in hospital, and has a number of health issues at the moment.
- We pray for a safe, meaningful, and special Christmas for all of our family and friends.
- We pray for all of the people in war zones and refugee camps throughout the world.
- We pray for God to comfort everyone who has been impacted by the shootings at Bondi Beach.

- 1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice;  
Oh, come to the Father,  
through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory;  
great things He hath done.*
- 2 Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
- 3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.  
Fanny Jane Crosby

**'Your light may not reach everyone, but it will reach those who are seeking it.  
*Keep shining.'***

### Meg's Musings

I often get the feeling that many people approach Christmas feeling that they don't really understand what it's all about.

By the time they reach Christmas Day they are partied out, tired of shopping, and wishing that it was all over.

Perhaps they are hungry for meaning, for purpose, and for real connection. Perhaps they are also hungry for God's peace.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

How can we let the people of our world know that what they want most of all is available, and waiting for them?

*Blessing from Meg*



 *my new favorite word:*

**Niksen**

Doing nothing, being idle or doing something without any particular purpose. Practicing nixen could be as simple as just hanging around, looking at your surroundings or listening to music - as long as it is not done in order to achieve something.

A Dutch concept



### Christmas Eve Service

24 December 7.30pm City Church 

24 December 11pm Southside Church

### Christmas Day Service

25 December 9am Southside Church

25 December 11am City Church

### Peel Valley Congregation .....

**18 January, 2026 Country Gospel  
Breakfast at Hallsville.**




**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday &  
Saturday *Cuppa and a chat always available.*

### 4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

Big breakfast served 8:00 - 10:00 am

Next Market **25 January**



## Ministers' Reflection Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches – Advent 4 – Love

The readings for Advent 4 draw us into one of the most tender and confronting promises of Scripture "The young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" God with us (Isaiah 7:14).

Matthew echoes this promise as Joseph, caught between fear and faith, is invited to trust that God is already at work in the midst of confusion, scandal, and vulnerability.

Advent does not offer us a sentimental story. It offers us a real one.

While Isaiah speaks to a people afraid of what lies ahead; Matthew tells of a young couple navigating shame, uncertainty, and danger. Into that space God chooses to come. Not as power or certainty, but as a child. Love enters the world quietly, vulnerably, and insistently.

In moments like these, our world still asks an ancient and aching question. The Black-Eyed Peas named it plainly years ago in their song "Where is the love?" It's a question that rises whenever violence shatters ordinary life, whenever fear feels louder than compassion.

The tragedy of the Bondi Junction attack has left many of us asking that very question. Ordinary moments were broken open by violence. Lives were lost. Families and communities were forever changed. In the face of such grief, easy answers fall apart.

Advent does not respond with an explanation, rather with presence. Immanuel does not mean God watches from a distance. It means God steps into the pain. God is with those who were harmed, with those who grieve, with first responders and strangers who ran toward danger to protect others. God is present in the love that risks itself for another... love that is costly, brave, and real.

'Where is the love?' Advent dares to answer 'Here'. Among us. Taking flesh.

Joseph's story reminds us that love often requires courage without clarity. He chooses faithfulness when the path ahead is uncertain. In the same way, the church is called to embody love not only when it is comfortable, but when it is most needed.

As Uniting Church communities across the Tamworth region, our calling is to live this love in public and practical ways. We are a covenant people committed to walking together, listening deeply, standing with the vulnerable, and working for justice and peace community, and despair with hope grounded in Christ.

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In times of tragedy, that means being places of welcome, . lament, prayer, and solidarity. It means resisting fear with Advent reminds us that God's response to a broken world is not withdrawal, but incarnation. God comes close and through the Spirit, continues to come close through us. Through compassion offered, stories honoured, tears held, and love made visible.

As we light the fourth candle this week, we do so knowing that love does not erase pain, but it does refuse to abandon us to it.

May we trust again that God is with us. May we become signs of that love for one another.

And may the question 'Where is the love?' be answered again through the baby born in a manger.

*Rev Sam Sadrata*



**Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as you ever can.**

~ John Wesley



On Thursday 11 December Rev Geoff was the guest speaker at Timbumburi Primary School.

After sharing the story of the first Christmas with the

assembled student he was invited to present each year six student with a bible as a gift of the Peel Valley Congregation. It is encouraging to know that every year six child attended scripture in 2025. A special thank you to our SRE teachers Janelle Tongue and Jennifer Battle and to Pat who supports their work with the SUPA Club.

**Peace on earth, good will to men.** Luke 2:14

### 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**



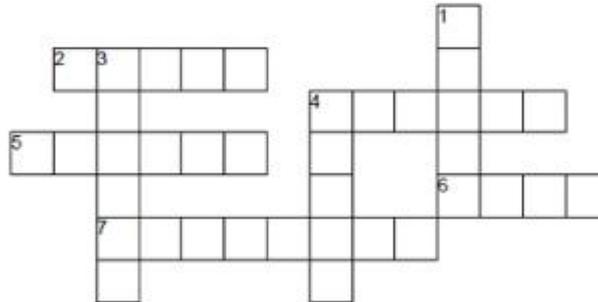
..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

# An Angel Appears to Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)



Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



## ACROSS

2. To become husband and wife
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. A pure, unmarried girl or woman
6. The mother of Jesus
7. A name that means "God is with us"

## DOWN

1. Images and emotions that occur while you are sleeping
3. To be filled with fear
4. The Son of God

DREAM	JESUS	MARRY	IMMANUEL
MARY	AFRAID	JOSEPH	VIRGIN

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

ANGEL NAME	IMMANUEL	AFRAID	DREAM	MARRY
MARY	SON	CHRIST	CHILD	BIRTH
	JESUS	JOSEPH	VIRGIN	HUSBAND

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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