



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

1 February 2026 Rev Geoff Flynn Rev Sam Sadrata Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT)

The Sermon on the Mount

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

- ³ "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.
- ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.
- ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.
- ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.
- ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- ¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.
- ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Micah 6:1-8 (NLT)

The LORD's Case against Israel

- 6** Listen to what the LORD is saying: "Stand up and state your case against me. Let the mountains and hills be called to witness your complaints.
- ² And now, O mountains, listen to the LORD's complaint! He has a case against his people. He will bring charges against Israel.
- ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? What have I done to make you tired of me? Answer me!
- ⁴ For I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to help you.
- ⁵ Don't you remember, my people, how King Balak of Moab tried to have you cursed and how Balaam son of Beor blessed you instead? And remember your journey from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, when I, the LORD, did everything I could to teach you about my faithfulness."
- ⁶ What can we bring to the LORD? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves?
- ⁷ Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?
- ⁸ No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday Cuppa and a chat always available.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

Big breakfast served 8:00 - 10:00 am 

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

8 February ~ Meg Mangan





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Pat as she recovers from surgery.
- We pray for Marg as she undergoes surgery on Tuesday.
- Congratulations, and continuing prayers and good wishes for Beth and Marg on reaching the milestone of 85 years young.

Participating in A New World Order

Public and media reactions to the Canadian Prime Minister's Davos speech largely converge on one theme: Mark Carney accurately diagnoses the collapse of the old rules based global order, but opinions differ sharply on whether his proposed path forward is adequate or ambitious enough.

For Christians, however, we are given clear statements in Matthew 5:1–12 and Micah 6:1–8 about what God values most in human life: humility, justice, compassion, and deep reliance on God. Just as the Ten Commandments shaped Israel's identity, the Beatitudes lay the foundation for the new order Jesus inaugurates—an order meant not only for heaven but for life on earth. Jesus' proclamation of God's kingdom calls for a change of allegiance, inviting people to embody God's will in concrete, communal ways. If the Beatitudes express God's vision for the world, they challenge modern assumptions about power, success, and even religion itself. They can seem impractical or even threatening, raising questions about how to discern what remains God's enduring vision and what belongs to a particular cultural moment.

To wrestle with these questions, we must return to the Beatitudes and ask what it truly means to be "blessed." If Jesus' mission continues God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah—through whom all nations would be blessed—then the Beatitudes describe the shape of that blessing. The first blessing, given to the "poor in spirit," has often been interpreted metaphorically to foster spiritual humility. Yet Jesus may instead be placing those who experience involuntary poverty at the centre of God care and teaching that God's reign belongs to them. This raises confronting questions of accountability for those who are not poor: how should they participate in God's vision?

Each Beatitude calls for a transformed way of living: prioritizing the poor, comforting the grieving, practicing nonviolent resistance, hungering for justice, pursuing purity through life's refining struggles, making peace actively, and enduring persecution for righteousness. Individually, each statement stands on its own; together, they offer a comprehensive vision of God's desired world. Followers of Jesus are invited to live into this vision, praying and working for God's kingdom on earth and becoming agents of the blessing God intends for all.

Rev Geoff



Minister's Reflection – Tamworth Regional Uniting Church Newsletter

As Tamworth settles after the Country Music Festival, we find ourselves shifting from the loudness of celebration to the quietness of ordinary days. The contrast is striking: one week filled with crowds, colour, and amplified sound; the next marked by familiar routines and the soft hum of daily life. Into this quieter space, our readings speak with surprising depth.

Micah 6:1–8 and Matthew 5:1–12 invites us to look again at what we think is 'normal'. They gently unsettle our assumptions about strength, success, and blessing. They invite us to see the world and ourselves through God's eyes rather than our own.

Micah calls the people back to the essence of faith. To do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God. It is a stripping away of everything performative, everything loud, everything that looks impressive but lacks substance. It is a reminder that God's deepest work often happens quietly in the hidden corners of our lives.

Then Jesus, in the Beatitudes, turns our reality upside down. Christ blesses the very people our world often overlooks. The poor spirit, the grieving, the gentle, the hungry for justice, the merciful, the peacemakers. It is a radical reorientation. A declaration that God's favour rests not on those who appear strong, rather on those who dare to be honest, compassionate, and open-hearted. In the Christ-lens in the beatitudes the kingdom of God is not found where we usually look but in the places we often overlook. This is the great "flip" of the kingdom: God is closest not when we feel most put-together, but when we feel most human.

After the festival when the stages are gone and the crowds have moved on, this truth feels especially poignant. The Beatitudes remind us that God's blessing is not an event but a presence. A presence that meets us in our ordinary days, our quiet acts of kindness, our imperfect attempts at justice, our humble walking with God.

Last week, Jesus called ordinary folk to follow him. This week, Christ shows them what that calling looks like. It is a life shaped by God's heart. A life where hope grows in unlikely places.

As our region exhales, may we breathe in this deeper truth.

May we allow the Beatitudes to unsettle us, soften us, and open us.

And may we discover and perhaps to our surprise that God's blessing is already woven through our days, waiting to be noticed, lived, and shared.

Rev Sam Sadrata



Desiderata:

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy. ~ Max Ehrmann ©1927

What Do Angels Look Like?

Like the little old lady who returned your wallet yesterday.

Like the taxi driver who told you that your eyes light up the world, when you smile.

Like the small child who showed you the wonder in simple things.

Like the poor man who offered to share his lunch with you.

Like the rich man who showed you that it really is all possible, if, only you believe.

Like the stranger who just happened to come along, when you had lost your way.

Like the friend who touched your heart, when you didn't think you had one.

Angels come in all sizes and shapes, all ages and skin types.

Some with freckles, some with dimples, some with wrinkles, some without.

They come disguised as friends, enemies teachers, students, lovers and fools.

They don't take life too seriously, they travel light.

They leave no forwarding address, they ask nothing in return.

They are hard to find when your eyes are closed, but when you choose to see, they are everywhere you look. ~ unknown

Although time seems to fly, it never travels faster than one day at a time. Each day is a new opportunity to live your life to the fullest. In each waking day, you will find scores of blessings and opportunities for positive change. Do not let your TODAY be stolen by the unchangeable past or the indefinite future! Today is a new day! ~ S Marabol

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."**

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Elder: Margaret Crowell

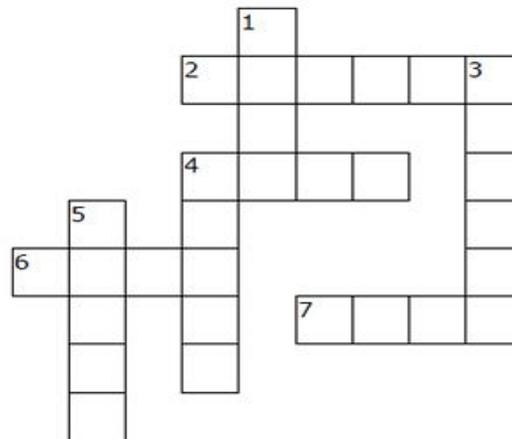
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The "Bee Attitudes"

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.
Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12



ACROSS

- 2. A need for food
- 4. To be humble in spirit or manner
- 6. Having little money or few possessions
- 7. To feel happiness, joy and pleasure

DOWN

- 1. To be without any faults; without sin
- 3. A payment received in return for doing good deeds
- 4. To show great kindness toward others
- 5. To feel sadness

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

MOURN	THIRST	PURE	HUNGER	HEART
FILLED	MEEK	MERCY	POOR	EARTH
KINGDOM	INHERIT	HEAVEN	BLESSED	SPIRIT

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