



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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

Isaiah 58:1–12 (NLT)

True and False Worship

²¹“Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast.
Shout aloud! Don’t be timid.
Tell my people Israel of their sins!
² Yet they act so pious!
They come to the Temple every day
and seem delighted to learn all about me.
They act like a righteous nation
that would never abandon the laws of its
God.
They ask me to take action on their
behalf,
pretending they want to be near me.
³ ‘We have fasted before you!’ they say.
‘Why aren’t you impressed?
We have been very hard on ourselves,
and you don’t even notice it!’
“I will tell you why!” I respond.
“It’s because you are fasting to please
yourselves.
Even while you fast,
you keep oppressing your workers.
⁴ What good is fasting
when you keep on fighting and
quarreling?
This kind of fasting
will never get you anywhere with me.
⁵ You humble yourselves
by going through the motions of penance,
bowing your heads
like reeds bending in the wind.
You dress in burlap
and cover yourselves with ashes.
Is this what you call fasting?
Do you really think this will please
the LORD?
⁶ “No, this is the kind of fasting I want:
Free those who are wrongly imprisoned;
lighten the burden of those who work for
you.
Let the oppressed go free,
and remove the chains that bind people.
from behind.continued

Isaiah 58:7–12 (NLT)

⁷ Share your food with the hungry,
and give shelter to the homeless.
Give clothes to those who need them,
and do not hide from relatives who need
your help.
⁸ “Then your salvation will come like the
dawn,
and your wounds will quickly heal.
Your godliness will lead you forward,
and the glory of the LORD will protect you
⁹ Then when you call, the LORD will answer.
‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply.
“Remove the heavy yoke of oppression.
Stop pointing your finger and spreading
vicious rumors!
¹⁰ Feed the hungry,
and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the
darkness,
and the darkness around you will be as
bright as noon.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually,
giving you water when you are dry
and restoring your strength.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like an ever-flowing spring.
¹² Some of you will rebuild the deserted
ruins of your cities.
Then you will be known as a rebuilder of
walls and a restorer of homes.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)



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





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Marg Crowell as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- We pray for Pat Crawford, who required further surgery.
- We give thanks for cooler weather earlier this week.
- We pray for people facing big challenges at the moment.
- We thank God for the people, and the things, which bring us joy.

Meg's Musings

My youngest grand-daughter began high school on Monday.

The first day was spent with no lessons - more of a getting-to-know-you day for girls who came from quite a wide range of schools.

On Tuesday there were some lessons. But it was very different to when I began high school.

Some of the teachers introduced themselves, and showed photos of their family.

They were clear on what they expected from the girls.

The science teacher, for instance, told the girls that, if they had long hair, that it had to be tied back for science.

The girls were happy to know where they were up to. God, too, lets us know where we are up to.

His instructions, in the Bible, tell us how God wants us to behave, and what he wants to see in our hearts - love for God, and love for others....

a love which begins with God's love for each and every one of us.

Blessing from Meg



A man walked to the top of a hill to talk to God.

The man asked, "God, what's a million years to you?" and God said, "A minute."

Then the man asked, "Well, what's a million dollars to you?" and God said, "A penny."

Then the man asked, "God.....can I have a penny?" and God said, "Sure.....in a minute."

~ My Good Time Stories



Matthew 5:13–20 (NLT)

Teaching about Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

¹⁷ "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

¹⁹ So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰ "But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!



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 Markets 22 February



CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

15 February ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

22 February ~ Meg Mangan



Minister's Reflection – "Salt That Matters" Isaiah 58:1–12 & Matthew 5:13–20

I should probably confess something at the start: I love salt. Truly. If it's edible, I've probably added salt to it. Chips, tomatoes, ice-cream (vanilla)... you name it. I've even had people gently suggest that perhaps I should taste the food first. But there's something about salt that just brings things alive. It sharpens and even enhances what's already there.

So when Jesus calls us "the salt of the earth," in our Gospel reading this week, I can't help but smile, because he is not talking about a garnish. Christ is saying that we are essential. We have that ability to change the flavor of the world.

Both Isaiah 58 and Matthew 5 push us to think about what faithful living looks like on a larger scale. These aren't private, internal spiritual exercises. They're public, embodied, world- shaping commitments.

Isaiah speaks to people who are very religious, fasting, praying, performing all the right rituals. But God isn't impressed. Their worship hasn't changed their behavior. Their piety has not softened their hearts. Their rituals have not shaped their relationships.

God's question is piercing - "Is this the fast that I choose?". And the answer is clear. God desires a faith that loosens the bonds of injustice, frees the oppressed, shares bread with the hungry, shelters the poor, and refuses to hide from our own kin.

This is faith that tastes like something. Faith with flavor. Faith that makes a difference. Jesus picks up the same theme. "You are the salt of the earth." "You are the light of the world." Not you might be, or you could be if you tried harder. You are.

Though Jesus also warns that salt can lose its saltiness. Light can be hidden. Faith can become bland, private, or disconnected from the world it's meant to bless. Christ goes further - he Has not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it. To draw out its deepest intention. The law was always meant to shape a community that reflects God's justice, mercy, and holiness in the world.

Friends we are called to be salt that matters. Salt that preserves what is good. Salt that heals what is wounded. Salt that enhances what is beautiful. Salt that awakens what has grown dull. Salt that refuses to lose its distinctive flavor.

Being "salt of the earth" is not about being perfect. It's about being present. It's about showing up in ways that make the world more just, more compassionate, more reflective of God's heart.

Isaiah says that when we live this way, "your light shall break forth like the dawn." Jesus says that when we live this way, people will "see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
.....continued

In a world that often feels overwhelmed by division, fear, and exhaustion, the church's calling is not to retreat but to season. To flavor.

Every act of kindness, every moment of courage, every choice to stand with the vulnerable, every time we speak truth with love, these grains of salt are scattered into the world. Small but awakening. Perhaps that is the point. Salt works quietly. It doesn't draw attention to itself, but it transforms what it touches.

May we be that kind of people.

May our congregations be that kind of presence.

May our region taste a little more like the kingdom of God because we are here.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Samuela*



Lent/Easter Journey

- 17 February – Shrove/Pancake Tuesday 10:30am Southside
- 18 February – Ash Wednesday 10:30am Southside
- 25 February – Lenten Study 7pm Zoom – five weeks
- 26 February – Lenten Study 2pm St Andrew's Room – five weeks
- 29 March – Palm Sunday Combined 5th Sunday 11am at Tamworth City
- 2 April – Maundy Thursday 7pm Southside
- 3 April – Good Friday 9am Tamworth City
- 5 April – Easter Sunday Combined 9:30am Southside

Each Life Affects Another

We may not always realize

That every thing we do,

Affects not only our lives

But touches others, too!

For a little bit of thoughtfulness

That shows someone you care,

Creates a ray of sunshine

For both of you to share.

Yes, every time you offer

Someone a helping hand ...

Every time you show a friend

You care and understand ...

Every time you have

A kind and gentle word to give ...

You help someone find beauty

In this precious life we live.

For happiness brings happiness

And loving ways bring love;

And giving is the treasure

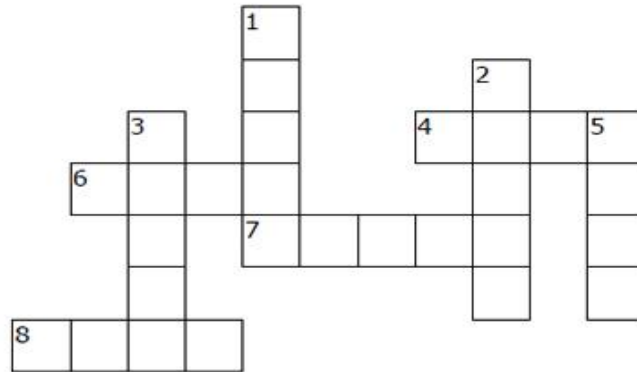
That contentment is made of. ~ Amanda Bradley

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

Plugged In and Turned On

"You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)



ACROSS

4. A dish that is used for holding fruit or liquids or for serving food
6. An elevated area of land smaller than a mountain
7. The performance of good acts
8. A large urban area where many people live

DOWN

1. All of the living human inhabitants of the earth
2. A place where families live
3. Any device serving as a source of illumination
5. A piece of furniture holding one or more electric light bulbs

DEEDS	HILL	LIGHT	WORLD
BOWL	CITY	LAMP	HOUSE

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

LAMP	LIGHT	BOWL	GOOD	DEEDS
WORLD	CITY	MEN	HIDDEN	SHINE
PRAISE	HOUSE	FATHER	HILL	STAND

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