



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

12 April 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

## John 20:19-31 (The Message)

### To Believe

<sup>19-20</sup> Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

<sup>20-21</sup> The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

<sup>22-23</sup> Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

<sup>24-25</sup> But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

<sup>27</sup> Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing." ....continued

## John 20:30-31

<sup>30-31</sup> Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

## Psalm 16 (NLT)

- <sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.
- <sup>2</sup> I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you."
- <sup>3</sup> The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!
- <sup>4</sup> Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods. I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood or even speak the names of their gods.
- <sup>5</sup> LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine.
- <sup>6</sup> The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.
- <sup>8</sup> I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
- <sup>9</sup> No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety.
- <sup>10</sup> For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.
- <sup>11</sup> You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever

### Other Lectionary Reading:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9



Little things are little things; but faithfulness in little things is a great thing.

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Beulah, and for Jim Furze, who are in hospital.
- We thank God for the many hospital staff members who care for patients so well.
- We pray for world peace.
- We pray for the many members of our congregation who are away from home at the moment.
- We pray for people living with ongoing diseases and disabilities.

### Meg's Musings

At the moment our world seems to be full of turmoil, unanswered questions, and threats of future catastrophe.

I think that Jesus' disciples may have experienced their world in much the same way in the days after Jesus' death.

The empty tomb puzzled them, rather than providing comfort.

It was not until they actually met with Jesus that they could believe that Jesus had conquered death.

As the present precarious world situation unfolds, put your faith in Jesus, the one who conquered death, and is there for you - every moment of every day.

Blessings from Meg

*Blessing from Meg*



### CHURCH SERVICES 11am West

19 April

~ Rev Geoff Flynn

26 April

~ Meg Mangan



### KINDNESS

Kindness is a little star,  
That twinkles in the night,  
Kindness is a little flower,  
That blossoms out of sight.

Kindness is a loving word,  
That no one else can hear,  
Kindness is a little song,  
That brings a world of cheer.

Kindness is a friendly face,  
When one is growing old,  
Kindness is a glowing warmth,  
When all the world is cold.

Kindness is a helping hand,  
Across a busy street,  
Kindness is a loving smile,  
Which makes our joy complete.

Kindness is a "something"  
We never really see,  
But how immense the difference,  
It makes to you and me!

~unknown

"Try to make time for the small things", said Big Panda'

"They are often important."



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

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



**Minister's Reflection**  
**Easter 2 - John 20:19-31**

John 20:19-31 meets us in fear, conflict, and uncertainty; and speaks a word of Christ's peace that does not deny reality but transforms it. The risen Jesus breathes courage, mercy, and purpose into communities who feel locked away. This passage invites us to become people who carry peace into a world aching for it.

So here we are friends. First week post resurrection. We carry the beauty of resurrection hymns, still remembering the cross, still feeling the emotional weight of Holy Week. Yet, the world outside our sanctuaries has not paused.

There are wars still raging. Communities displaced. Families grieving. Political tensions are rising. Economic pressures are tightening around households. Climate anxieties growing as seasons shift in ways our farmers feel in their bones. Closer to home, many of our own people carry private fears. It is into this world that the risen Christ speaks.

John tells us the disciples were hiding behind locked doors in fear for their lives. The disciples feared the authorities. They feared the unknown. They feared that the story might not end in hope after all. Fear is not a failure. Fear is a natural human response. Many people today know that feeling. Locked rooms are not always physical. Sometimes they are emotional, political, or spiritual. Sometimes they are the quiet places we retreat to when the world feels too heavy.

It is there that Jesus appears and greets the disciples in the most profound way possible –

Christ says "Peace be with you." Jesus does not scold nor demand that they "be stronger" or "have more faith." He does not shame them for hiding. He brings peace, shalom, God's deep, restoring, justice-shaped peace.

This peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the presence of God's wholeness in the midst of conflict. It is the peace that steadies trembling hands and opens locked hearts. It is that, that allows us to face the world as it is, without being consumed by it.

In a world overwhelmed by violence, division, and fear, the Church's first calling is to receive Christ's peace but as a commissioning. The risen Christ does not allow the disciples to remain hidden. He breathes the Spirit upon them and sends them out.

.....continued

Where they are sent, we know that it is not a place of comfort and places that are familiar. This is a sending into reality.

The United Church understands this. Faith is not an escape from the world but a commitment to it. We are called and sent into the world to be people of reconciliation, justice, compassion, and truth. We stand with the vulnerable, to speak peace into conflict, to embody hope where despair has taken root.

Thomas is often labelled as the "doubter," but the text never condemns him. Thomas wants what the others received: an encounter with the risen Christ, and Christ meets him.

This is good news for a world where people are weary of easy answers. Good news for those who struggle with faith after trauma or loss. Good news for communities who long for honesty rather than religious performance.

The Church is at its best when it welcomes questions, honours doubt, and creates space for people to encounter Christ in their own time and way. Thomas reminds us that faith is not certainty. Faith is relationship and trust that grows in the presence of Christ's wounded, risen love.

We stand in the glow of resurrection, but the world is still aching. Yet, the risen Christ steps into our midst, into multicultural congregations, into homes where fear lingers and speaks peace. Christ breathes the Spirit upon us. Christ sends us into the world as people shaped by grace.

May we be a community that carries peace into conflict, compassion into suffering, courage into uncertainty, and hope into every place where doors have been locked for too long.

Alleluia!! Christ is risen.

*Rev Sam*

**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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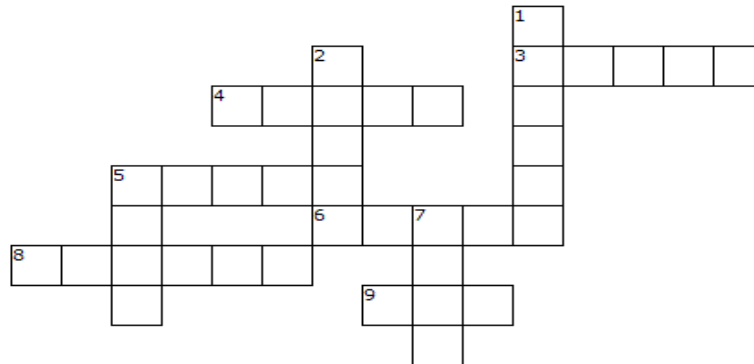
**P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH**



# Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



## ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

## DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

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