



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

17 May 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

John 17:1-11 (NRSVue)

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Acts 1:6-14 (NRSVue)

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of [a] James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West

24 May

~ Meg Mangan



31 May

~ Gowrie Community Church

Closing Service of Thanksgiving – followed by lunch at the Gowrie Community Hall 238 Sweeney's Lane Gowrie.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for the people of the Middle East and Ukraine. In their uncertainty, may they turn to God.
- We pray that Doug continues to recover from his hospital stay.
- We pray for rain to fall in our region.
- We give thanks for the many people who show us love.
- We pray for all of the people in aged care in Tamworth - and their carers.

Meg's Musings

This week I went to the movies and saw "The Devil Wears Prada 2".

Lots of glitz and glamour, lots of tears, lots of frustration, and lots of undermining each other.

I'm sure that for the people who inhabit that world of fashion and glamour there are some certainties, and some people to rely upon....in the movie, it was portrayed as everyone for themselves.

Until, suddenly, it wasn't. It was a movie with a feel-good ending, with almost everyone a winner.

We don't have to deal with a life containing only uncertainties, because Jesus gave us certainty.

He will never leave us; He is ALWAYS there for us.

Blessing from Meg



Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

UNITING WORLD - is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Barry Higgins will be giving a talk, and will answer any questions.

Saturday 30th May

4.30pm St Andrew's Room City Church

Please bring food to share for a "Potluck Dinner" afterwards.

It's expected to conclude by 7:00pm

Minister's Reflection Called to Be One

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an ecumenical observance celebrated around the world under the oversight of the World Council of Churches.

Interestingly, the week is observed at different times depending on where you live. In the Northern Hemisphere it is held in January, but here in the Southern Hemisphere we observe it between Ascension and Pentecost, from 21–28 May this year.

The timing is deeply significant. In the final hours before his arrest, Jesus gathered with his disciples not for strategy or instruction, but for prayer. In John 17 we are invited to overhear that prayer, and at its heart is a longing that still speaks powerfully today: "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

This prayer links Jesus' return to the Father with his hope for unity among his followers. Sadly, its relevance has not diminished. The diversity of Christian traditions in Australia, and the painful divisions seen globally between Christian communities, for example Russia and The Ukraine remind us how far we still are from living fully into this prayer.

Across science, spirituality, and philosophy there is remarkable agreement on one idea: at the beginning, there is oneness. Call it God, call it the Singularity—deep within creation, and even within our own DNA, there is a centre, a still point. Human life often feels like a pilgrimage back to that centre, a longing to return to what is whole. Jesus lived entirely from this sense of unity with God. His words and actions drew people back into relationship—with God and with one another. The Gospels show how lives were restored and divisions healed as people found their place in him.

When unity is lost, suffering grows: division, alienation, rejection. When unity is restored, healing follows: community, compassion, reconciliation, wholeness. No wonder Jesus' deepest prayer for his disciples, and for us, is that we may be one.

As we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are reminded that unity does not require uniformity. We will not all think the same—but we can choose to love, speak, and listen in ways shaped by Christ. In doing so, we faithfully answer his prayer and continue the journey toward the

One who draws us together. *Rev Geoff*



I Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11 (NRSVue)

Suffering as a Christian

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday &

Saturday. Cuppa and a chat always available.

I used to think communication was the key until I realised comprehension is. You can communicate all you want with someone but if they don't understand you, its silent chaos. ~ Dorian Gray

"The Gift of Aging"

The gift of aging is something we don't always recognize while we're young. We spend so much time worrying about the lines on our faces, the gray in our hair, or the slower steps we take — that we forget what they truly mean.


Wrinkles aren't flaws; they're proof that we've smiled, laughed, and cried through a lifetime of moments. Gray hair isn't something to hide; it's a crown of wisdom earned through years of experience.

Slower steps don't mean weakness; they mean we've walked far enough to know that life isn't a race, it's a journey.

The hardest part of growing older is saying goodbye to certain chapters — the noise of children running through the house, the energy of youth, the people we've loved who are no longer here. But the beauty of aging is realizing how rich those chapters were, and how much love we still carry forward.

Aging is not losing time — it is gaining perspective. It is the privilege of seeing the seasons change, of watching children grow into parents, and of knowing that your presence has shaped lives in ways that will last long after you're gone.

The truth is, not everyone gets the gift of aging. Every birthday is not a burden, but a blessing. Every year is another chance to love, to laugh, and to leave behind a legacy of kindness.

Because the gift of aging is simple: it means you were given time. And time is the most precious gift of all.  ~ Echoes of Insight

Ureshii (common Japanese noun)

A genuine often gentle or heartfelt sense of happiness or pleasure, used when someone feels quietly overjoyed, emotionally touched or thankful

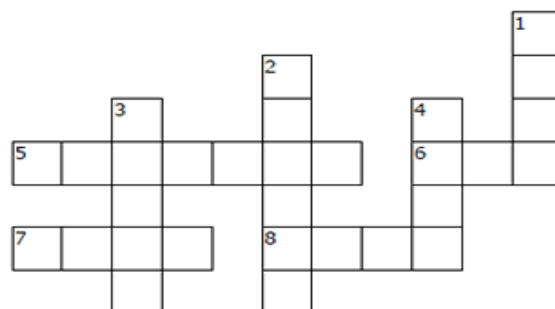
Jesus Prays for His Disciples



I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:9 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. To keep from being injured or harmed
6. To be a single unit, object, or living being
7. A combination of letters that represents a thought or idea
8. To speak to God

DOWN

1. To place in the hands of someone
2. To receive something
3. That which belongs to you
4. Deserving special respect or reverence; worthy of worship

PRAY	GIVE	HOLY	PROTECT
ACCEPT	YOURS	WORD	ONE

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

Sermon4kids4

POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN

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