



Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



21 June 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Ezekiel 37:15-28 (NRSVU)

¹⁵ The Two Sticks

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For Judah and the Israelites associated with it"; then take another stick and write on it, "For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it"; ¹⁷ and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. ¹⁸ And when your people say to you, "Will you not show us what you mean by these?" ¹⁹ say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it, and I will put the stick of Judah upon it^[a] and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand."

²⁰ When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, ²¹ then say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone and will gather them from every quarter and bring them to their own land.

²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

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Ezekiel 37:24-28 (NRSVU)

²⁴ "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes.

²⁵ They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever, and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will bless them and multiply them and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore.

²⁷ My dwelling place shall be over them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

²⁸ Then the nations shall know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore."

"Look at all the good you have done, little by little, person by person, over all these years, with every helping act you performed, with every kind word you spoke. The Spirit says, "I know you want to offer a disclaimer, but your mistakes do not erase the good. Over all these years, you have been a channel of grace, a source of healing, a friend in need. You have acted from a deep sense of compassion. You have sacrificed for the sake of others. I do not remind you of this out of some sense of false flattery, but only to acknowledge a simple truth: if every bit of good you have done were a grain of sand, you would be standing on a beach."

By Steven Charleston, in *Ladder to the Light*, as quoted by Joyce Rupp in *The Years of Ripening*

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West

28 June ~ Meg Mangan

5 July ~ Rev Geoff Flynn (HC)





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for the new peace agreement between USA and Iran, and pray that further positive steps will be made.
- We pray for peace in other conflicts throughout our world.
- We thank God for green grass.....in June!
- We are thankful for the many Fab Finds donations, and the donors.
- We pray for everyone who is unwell.

Coffee With A Professor

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite -- telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup itself doesn't add to the quality to the coffee and in some cases even hides what we drink and yet you consciously went for the best looking cups."

Then, he began eyeing each other's cups. With compassion, he added, "Life is like coffee. The jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. While you pursue the fine cups, be sure to keep focus on enjoying the coffee!" ~ *jojomcb*



Meg's Musings

As the rain and the sunshine of the past few weeks have worked their wonders on our parched soil, new life has sprung up.

It's been wonderful to see the transformation from bare ground to carpets of green grass.

It's also helped me to get out into the garden. I've pruned, dug, transplanted and mown.

When nature is busily creating new growth, it is so much easier to join in, and add to the overall effect.

Where do you feel encouraged to add your efforts to something which is unfolding, or blooming?

Blessings from Meg



John 17:20-26 (NRSVU)

²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word,

²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,

²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 122

Hebrews 13:1-8



Ask yourself at every moment. Is this necessary? ~ Marcus Aurelius

Minister's Reflection Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter – Pentecost 4

Jesus never pretended that discipleship would be easy. *"Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 10:39)

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks words that can make us uncomfortable. He speaks of taking up the cross, of difficult choices, and of placing loyalty to God's kingdom above every other claim upon our lives. These are not words that fit easily within a culture that values comfort, security, and personal fulfilment above all else. Yet Jesus is not calling us to suffering for its own sake. Rather, he is inviting us into a different understanding of life itself.

Paul echoes this in Romans 6 when he writes that through baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised to new life. Christian faith is not simply about adding Jesus to an already busy life. It involves allowing parts of our old life, our self-interest, our fears, our need for control - to die so that something new can emerge.

Discipleship always involves letting go. Sometimes it means giving up certainty in order to trust God more deeply. Or sacrificing time, energy, or resources in service to others. Perhaps it means choosing compassion when resentment would be easier, or forgiveness when holding a grudge feels more justified.

As the Uniting Church reflects on fifty years of life and witness, it is worth remembering that our very existence began with an act of costly discipleship. Congregations and denominations gave up familiar identities, traditions, and structures because they believed God was calling them into something larger than themselves. That decision was not primarily about institutional survival. It was an act of faith. It reflected a willingness to lose something precious in order to gain something new. The same challenge remains before us today. What might God be asking us to release so that new life can grow? What habits, assumptions, or priorities no longer serve God's mission? What opportunities for service, justice, and community might emerge if we were willing to let go of what is comfortable?

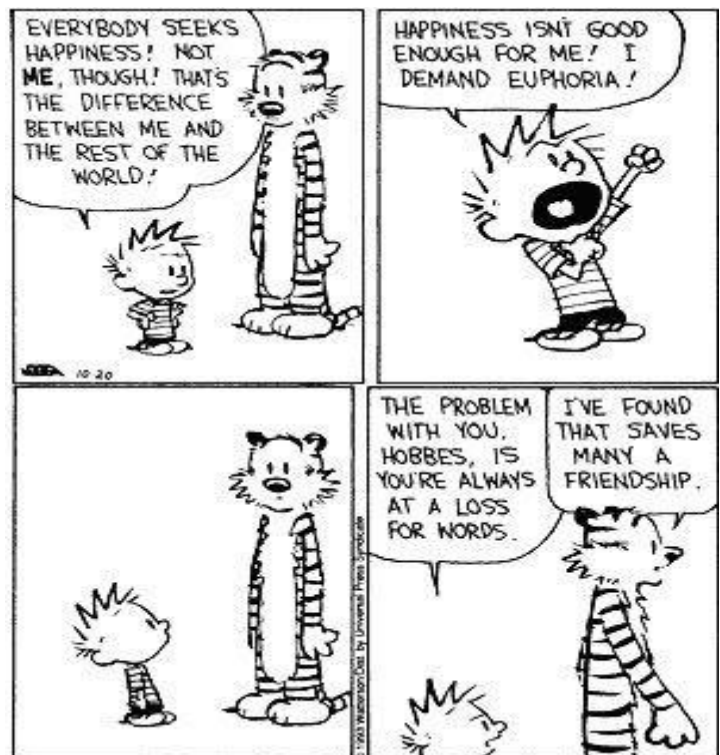
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The good news of the Gospel is that discipleship's cost is never the end of the story. Whenever Jesus speaks of losing life, he also speaks of finding it. Whenever Paul speaks of dying with Christ, he also speaks of being raised with Christ. The call of discipleship is costly, but it is ultimately a call into a fuller, richer, and more abundant life in God.

As we give thanks for the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, may we also have the courage to respond to Christ's call in our own time, trusting that whatever we surrender for the sake of the Gospel, God can transform into new life. Amen.

Rev Sam Sadrata

"Life may not be the party we hoped for... but while we're here we may as well dance." ~ Jeanne C. Stein



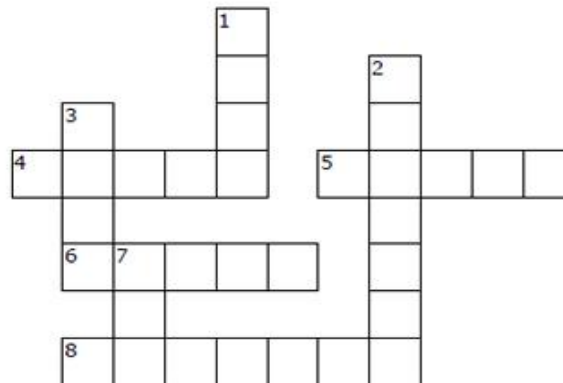
PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION Our goal:
"To be transformed communities, experiencing,
enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."
Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."
Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn** 0421 338 202
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Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan** 0476 375 989
Elder: Margaret Crowell
P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



Jesus Prays for All Believers

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:23 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 17:20-23 (NIV)



ACROSS

4. Joined together as a group; the state of being in agreement
5. Great admiration, honor and praise
6. The earth and its inhabitants
8. A written or spoken statement

DOWN

1. To speak to God
2. To think that something is true or correct
3. To be acquainted with someone or something
7. A single thing; to be undivided

pray	message	glory	know
believe	world	unity	one

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

Sermon4kids4

know	glory	all	message	them
alone	complete	believe	sent	unity
loved	prayer	one	also	world

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