



Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



20 September 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Mark 1:9-13 (NRSVU)

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him.

¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Testing of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Romans 8:18-27

Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

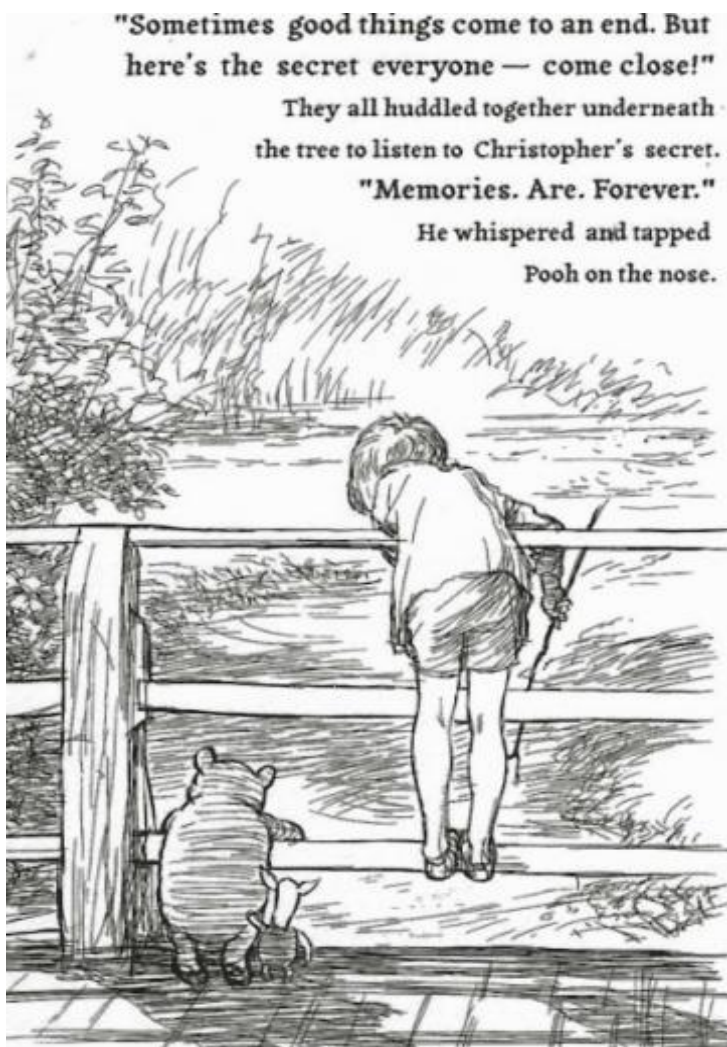
²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.



CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth
27 September ~ Meg Mangan



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We thank God for the improvements in modern medicine, and pray for continued discoveries and cures.
- We pray for the billions of people throughout the world who are impacted by the fuel price rises.
- We pray for wisdom for world leaders as they attempt to take steps towards resolving this crisis.
- We give thanks for spring sunshine - and pray for spring rains.
- We pray for one another.

Meg's Musings

We've celebrated a few milestones within our congregation recently.

In May we closed the Gowrie Church.

In July we celebrated Beulah's 103rd birthday.

We also farewelled Beulah less than a month later, knowing that she was happy to be "going home" to God.

In August we sold the West Tamworth Church, and are now tenants, rather than owners.

Earlier this month Fay Monckton celebrated her 90th birthday.

God has been part of each one of these milestones and changes.

He also gives us the breath, and the strength to live each day - to tackle the ordinary, as well as the big moments of life.

Let's choose to live as fully as we can, each and every day!

Blessings from Meg



Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments. ~ Rose Kennedy

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



A professor entered his and handed out papers facing down. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions-just a black dot in the center of the paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following:

"I want you to write about what you see there."

The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud.

All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

"I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper.

Everyone focused on the black dot - and the same thing happens in our lives. We tend to focus only on the black dot - the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, a complicated relationship, the disappointment with a friend.

The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives. Take your the eyes away from the black dots in your lives. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!" ~ unknown

Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. ~ Joshua J. Marine

**Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches ministers
reflection**

'Wilderness - Where God Meets Us'

Last week, we reflected on **Land**.

We thought about the ground beneath our feet, the places we call home, and our responsibility to care for the earth entrusted to us. Land reminds us that we are creatures of a particular place. We belong somewhere and are connected to soil, water, seasons, animals, neighbours and community.

This week, the Season of Creation takes us somewhere quite different – **the wilderness**.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus comes to the Jordan river and is baptised by John..Christ hears the voice of God: *"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* And immediately, the Spirit drives him out into the wilderness.

Jesus hears who he is before he enters the wilderness. He does not discover his identity because everything around him is settled and secure. He carries that identity with him into a place of uncertainty, solitude and testing.

Wilderness has a way of doing that to us.

I've observed that there are seasons in life when the familiar disappears. The routines we depended upon change. The answers we once had seem less certain. Sometimes wilderness comes in the form of grief. Sometimes through illness, disappointment, loneliness or uncertainty about the future. Or perhaps it comes simply through the passing of time when we realise that life has changed and we cannot quite return to what once was.

And sometimes the wilderness is quite literal.

Here in regional Australia, wilderness is not merely an abstract spiritual idea. We know of country where landscapes stretches beyond the horizon. Perhaps that is why wilderness can become such a reflective place. It strips away some of the noise. You get lost easily in thoughts.

We jump to the epistle reading and Romans 8 gives us a profound picture of creation itself in this wilderness. Paul says that *"the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now."* Creation is waiting, longing and hoping for redemption.

It appears that creation is not simply a backdrop to human life, but is woven together in the story of God. It witnesses and confesses, It waits. It longs for renewal.

....continued

Then Paul goes further. He says that **we also groan**. We carry hopes that have not yet been fulfilled. We pray for things we cannot yet see. We grieve what has been lost. Yet Romans 8 does not leave us alone in that longing. *"The Spirit helps us in our weakness."*

When we do not know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Sometimes faith in the wilderness is not about having the right words but simply about breathing, waiting and trusting that God is present.

Jesus enters the wilderness carrying the voice of his Father with him: "You are my Son, the Beloved." And we enter our own wildernesses carrying the promise that **God's Spirit is with us too**.

The wilderness can feel like a place of absence. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows us that it can also become a place of encounter. It is where Jesus is tested, but also where his identity is confirmed. It is where creation groans, but also where creation waits in hope. It is where we can feel most vulnerable but yet where the Spirit meets us in our weakness.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of the wilderness. It teaches us that we are creatures who cannot control everything. We depend upon God and each other. We also depend upon the land, and are called to sustain creation.

As we continue through this Season of Creation, may we have the courage to listen to the groaning of creation and to the quieter groanings within our own hearts. And may we discover, even in the wilderness, that we are not abandoned.

The Spirit is there. Christ is there. And the God who leads us into the wilderness is also the God who leads us through it, toward the renewal of all creation.

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness."

Perhaps that is enough for this week. God is making all things new.

Blessings

Rev Sam



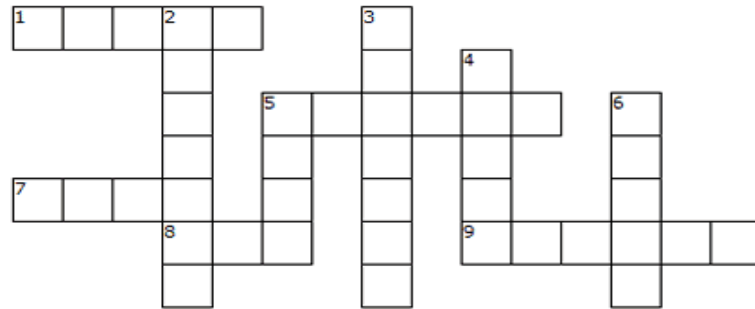
The most beautiful things are not associated with money; they are memories and moments. If you don't celebrate those, they can pass you by.

~ Alek Wek

The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
5. The river where Jesus was baptized.
7. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptize someone.
5. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE	JORDAN	JOHN	DOVE	REPENT
CONFESS	WATER	SIN	VOICE	HONEY

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

Sermon4kids4

REPENT	JORDAN	FORGIVE	HEAVEN
CLOTHING	SINS	JESUS	WILD
LOCUSTS	WATER	RIVER	BAPTIZED
SPIRIT	CONFESS	HONEY	JOHN

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