



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Christmas 2021

Luke 2:1-15 (NIV)

## The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.



<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

## Our Greatest Need

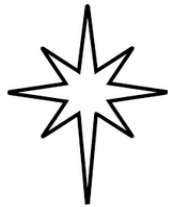
### 1 Corinthians 13—Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with shiny red bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls; but do not have love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime; but do not have love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity; but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the Christmas tree with shimmering angels, and crocheted snowflakes; if I attend a myriad of holiday parties, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.



Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind, though stressed and tired. Love does not envy another person's home or belongings. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.



Toys will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust; but giving the gift of love will endure. ~ unknown

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ~ Matthew 2:1-2

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for, and give thanks for absent family and friends.
- We pray for residents in aged care facilities over Christmas.
- We pray for people throughout the world affected by Covid19 at the moment.
- We thank God for the gift of Jesus.

After unwrapping all of his presents, a little boy was asked, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" He thought a moment and said, "No, but then, it's not my birthday." ~ unknown

### Meg's Musings

Christmas means different things to different people. To toddlers it is a time to explore new things - even Christmas wrapping paper is given the "taste test". To young children it is a time of excitement and wonder. It can also be a time for wishing and hoping. For older children, getting together with each other becomes so-o-o-o important. For those newly in love, Christmas becomes a new milestone in their relationship. For new parents, the first Christmas is perhaps experienced through the blur of tiredness, but it is also very special. For grandparents, it is a time to catch up with those who have moved far away. It is also a time to reconnect with grandchildren, and to grow closer ties. For the ad-men, it is a time to encourage spending and indulgence. For all of us, no matter what stage of life we are experiencing, it is a time to remember the gift of our Saviour, Jesus.

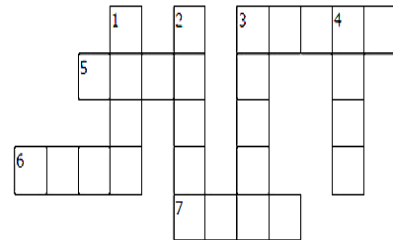
Blessings from Meg



### Christmas Joy

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Luke 3:11 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 3:7-11



#### ACROSS

- An item of clothing that is worn on the upper half of the body
- To have very little money or possessions
- The opposite of bad
- A tall plant that has a trunk, branches, and leaves

#### DOWN

- What we eat
- The sweet food that grows on a tree
- To give part of what you have to someone else
- The part of a tree that grows under the ground



**Peel Valley Congregation** is in recess, resuming for 2021 at Hallsville with our traditional **Gospel Music Breakfast** **16 January 2018 All Welcome.**



- 26 December ~ Pat Johnston
- 28 December ~ Myra Forrester
- 29 December ~ Lorabelle Whitten
- 11 January ~ Ernie Thompson
- 17 January ~ Jan Parker
- 24 January ~ Phyllis Bylund
- 30 January ~ Trevor Forrester
- 31 January ~ Margaret Crowell & Cameron
- 31 January ~ Kevin Hoyt



**Lectionary Readings for today:**  
**Nativity 1** Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2: 16-20  
**Nativity 2** Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97  
 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20  
**Nativity 3** Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98  
 Hebrews 1:1-5-12 John 1:1-14

**New Year's Day Lectionary Reading:**  
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8  
 Revelations 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46



#### 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."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**



OP Shop @ Hallsville. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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