# Diary Dates

Sun, 23 9am Tamworth City Worship with Mr Barry **Gillett. Transfiguration** Sunday. Sunday School. Morning Tea.

11am Korean Reborn Church Mon, 249:30am KAIROS sewing JH Sat, 29 9am-12noon Op Shop 10am-4pm Op Shop M-F 10am-2pm Uniting StAR Tue, 25 Rev Betty Orange—25th

9am-2pm Church Office T-F 9:30am Line dancing JH 10am Pres Bookkeeping 10am Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast StAR Wed, 268am Ash Wednesday Worship in Church 9am Op Shop Working Bee 4pm Young Families Worker Support Group

5pm Rainbow Cottage

Management Committee

# Preaching Plan

#### Sunday, 1 March—Lent Wk1

9am Tamworth City Service and HC with Rev Betty Stroud—Elder: N Dezius, J Dezius, A Ashworth, P Turner, P Battle; Door: W Townsend, Kathy, R Barclay; PP: M Miles; Organ: R Greer.

- 9:30am Tamworth Southside service
- West Tamworth service. Lunch to follow. 11am
- 5pm Tamworth Southside Service



6pm Meditation in Chapel

6pm New Vogue Dance JH

Thu, 27 10am Stepping Stones DH

Fri, 28

Sun. 1

9:30am Yoga at StAR

4:30pm Church Music

NENW Pres PRC Meeting

9am NENW Presbytery

7pm Emmaus Trivia Night in

**Communion with Rev Betty** 

Stroud. Lent Wk1. Sunday

10am Stories that Give Life

11am Korean Reborn Church

& Morning Tea in Jubilee

School. Food hamper

meeting in Uralla

9am Tamworth City

Worship and Holy

Armidale

Sunday.

Hall.

# 23 February 2020 Transfiguration Sunday

#### **Contact Details:**

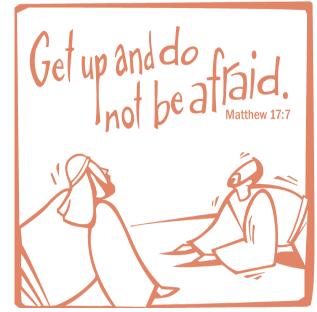
- IIM Minister: Rev Betty Stroud 0419 687 181 dottydog@bigpond.com
- Office: 144 Marius St, PO Box 501. Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 6766 5311, Email tamworthcity.uca@ gmail.com, Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri

#### **Other Useful Local** Contacts:

- Southside Office: Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101. South Tamworth 2340. Email tsucoffice @gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- Southside Lav Ministry Worker: Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373 tsucminister@gmail.com
- Young Family Worker: • Sarah Wright 0423 617 813 Email: sarah.familyworker.uca @gmail.com
- Peel Valley: Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- UNITING St Andrew's Village 1800 864 846 Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
- UNITING Rainbow Cottage 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

# Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us at Tamworth City today. Mr Barry Gillett will be leading our service. Please stay for a chat and morning tea after worship in the St Andrew's Room.



"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 1

# Seasons of the Spirit

## Sent...

### Readings

Exodus 24:12–18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9 Prayer

Shining God, you change us in ways we cannot imagine. You ask us to follow you, and then show us the way to go. You send us out into your world. As we climb and descend the mountain today, guide us in our next steps in proclaiming your love. Amen.

### Reflection

This week is the culmination of the Season After the Epiphany; today we are sent to shine the light of Christ in the world. The glory of God is described in three of the passages for today. Those who climb mountains are transformed (Moses, Peter, James, and John). How does an encounter with God change us?

### Biblical Background

Exodus 24:12–18 introduces the mountain motif and the theme of God's glory. When Moses ascends the mountain to receive the Law, the people below witness God's presence as a consuming fire on the mountain (v. 17). This passage connects Moses to Jesus in several ways: the glory of God that is experienced as fire in this story is revealed in the shining face and dazzling clothes in Matthew 17:2. Both passages take place on a mountain. In both stories, those who encounter the glory and mystery of God are sent down from the mountain to continue the work. Like the disciples who journey to the top of the mountain with Jesus, Moses does not go alone. Joshua is his companion and travelling partner.

Psalm 2 is a messianic poem. Psalm 2:7 is echoed in the baptism affirmation of Matthew 3:17. Is it possible that in saying "You are my son," God is saying to the people "You are my people? As a parent, I will do anything to protect you." Psalm 99 is heavy in masculine imagery for God. This psalm, along with the other readings for this week reveal a disruptive God, moving people, and changing nature in ways that feel grand and cosmic. Yet, through this disruption, God is elevated over it all – in the hills, Worship: 9:30am & 5pm Sundays. HCFriday North Tamworth Bowling Club3rd Sunday.Men's Breakfast: 7:30am on 1st

**Ladies Breakfast:** 7:30am on 4th Tuesday each month.

**Stepping Stones:** 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tues, school terms.

Prayer Team: 3pm Tuesdays.

Motor Bike Ride: 9am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Faith & Art Group: 1pm Thursdays, alternate weeks, school terms. Men's Choir: 5:30pm on alternate Thursdays.

Men's Bowls: 9:45am 2nd & 4th

# Peel Valley Congregations



#### GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

Our Goal "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus." Mission "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve" Website: ucapeelvalley.org.au Email: ucapeelvalley@gmail.com Pastrl Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005 Friday North Tamworth Bowling Club Men's Breakfast: 7:30am on 1st Saturday each month. Website: <u>www.tsuc.org.au</u> or Facebook: Tamworth Southside UC Our Vision: To be a faithful & enthusiastic part of God's church in our community,

sharing the love of Jesus.

**Mission Statements:** To build up individuals and teams, empowered by the Holy Spirit, using our spiritual gifts to serve each other & our community.



Contact: Margaret Crowell 0408 660 025 Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369 Elders: Margaret Crowell, Ross Davidson, and Bruce Jarrett.

Sun, 23 Feb—8:30am Hallsville Markets; 8:30am Gowrie Service and 11am West Tamworth Service with The Gideons.

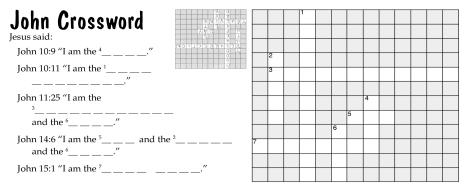
**Fri, 28 Feb**—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church

**Sun, 1 Mar**—11am West Tamworth Service. Lunch to follow.

Tue, 3 Mar—10am Memory Lane at

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 11

West Tamworth

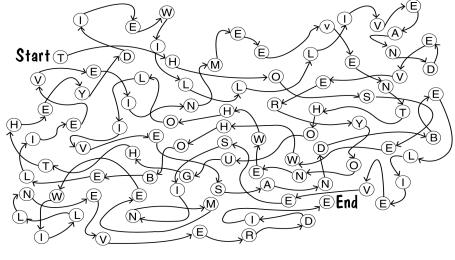


Fill in the crossword with the words from the above blanks.

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#### John 11:25b, 26a

Begin at "Start" and write down each letter in the blanks below. Follow the arrows.



Answer: "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

# Lectionary Readings

| Sun | 23 | Psalm 2*                | Fri                                  | 28 | Romans 5:12-19* |
|-----|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| Mon | 24 | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7* | Sat                                  | 29 | Matthew 4:1-11* |
| Tue | 25 | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17       | Sun                                  | 30 | Psalm 32*       |
| Wed | 26 | Psalm 51:1-17 Ash W     | * Denotes Sunday lectionary readings |    |                 |
| Thu | 27 | 2 Corinthians 5:10-6:12 |                                      |    |                 |

in the clouds, and on the mountains.

The cosmic nature of God can be seen more easily in the passage from 2 Peter:1:16–21. This is the eyewitness testimony of God's grandeur and splendour. We hear the echoes of God's voice across the mountains and can relate to the images of lamps shining in deep and shadowed places. Once again, we understand that we are not sent to do the work of God alone. The prophetic message from God does not come from one individual but rather a community (vv. 20–21), and these messages from God are best interpreted in community, not individually. Perhaps this is what we are sent to do – share our testimonies of scripture and accounts of our encounters with God with others?

Matthew 17:1–9 An encounter with the mystery and glory of God can happen in small quiet moments. Sometimes, it happens in a flash of blinding light. In Matthew 16, Jesus predicts that the Son of Man will come with the glory of God and that he will die. Six days later we find Jesus climbing the mountain with Peter, James, and John. We do not know why it is these particular disciples, nor what the purpose was. Suddenly, the disciples looked at Jesus, and he appeared as he had never been before. The connections to Moses' shining face can be made here. A voice from the clouds repeats the affirmation heard at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:17), "This is my Son, the Beloved." However, in the story of the Transfiguration there is a pause, and then a three-word instruction is offered, "Listen to him." Holy encounter requires a response.

### Thoughts

The readings this week show a God who is with us when we are disrupted, and a disruptive God. Through the chaos, God is elevated over it

all – in the hills, in the clouds, and over mountains. Throughout the Season After the Epiphany, the light of God's love is revealed in new ways. On this Transfiguration Sunday, the light shines brighter but the moment passes quickly, and we recognize that we do not make our home on the mountains, rather we are sent to continue the journey with Christ and to do the work of God. How does an encounter with Christ transform us?



# Today's Information

#### Worship on Sunday, 23 February 2020 - Transfiguration Sunday

9am Worship Service with Mr Barry Gillett. Sunday School. Morning tea.

#### Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship. Jubilee Kitchen & Dunn Hall for lunch.

#### **Church Council Meeting**

#### Notes:

- Safe Church—Norm Dezius is our Safe Church Officer, Church Council approved a Safe Church Policy and notices will be going up around the premises over the coming weeks.
- No fete this year, Church Council looking at other avenues for raising funds at smaller events throughout the year.
- Some work is to be done on the shade cloth at the rear of Dunn Hall.
- Also a weeding party to remove burs of various types is proposed. Any day (except Thursday). BYO spade & bucket. Contact Paul Turner 6766 6891.
- Final Gift from Lyall Green \$172,000 has been invested.
- Property committee putting up sensor lights around the property.
- Christmas Bowl \$1,250. Thank you everyone.

#### **Rev Betty Stroud**

Generally Betty will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when she is in Tamworth. Contact Betty on her mobile 0419 687 181 or email *dottydog@bigpond.com* to arrange a time to meet. In orange until 25th.

#### **Stories That Give Life**

A time to share the things that we have experienced in the life of this congregation that have brought life and hope to our community of faith. Following worship on 1st March, we will gather in the Jubilee Hall for morning tea and a time of sharing our stories. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we begin the process of discerning the way ahead for our congregation. Please take time over the next few weeks to think about what you might share.

#### Worship on Sunday, 15 March—Lent Wk3

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: J Archbold; D: R & P Pryor, H McKenzie; PP: J Carthew; O: R Cathcart. Sunday School.

#### Dates to Note

- 17th 9am AIR; 2pm Senior's Getting Together; 7pm Lenten Study
- 18th 10am Bereavement Support Group
- 19th: 9:30am Nursing Home Service; 2pm Lenten Study
- 20th: 10am Craft Group

## Prayers

#### Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Pastoral Partners, Elders, St Andrew's Village, Fellowship Committee activities, Hospital Visitation and Opportunity Shop. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

#### **Ecumenical Prayer Calendar**

Keep the people of Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain in your prayers this week.

#### **Presbytery Prayer Points**

Our Presbytery Meeting on 29 February in Uralla.

#### Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who led classes in our high schools this year— Belinda and Darrel. We are funded from donations. If you would like to contribute: A/c name TSCEAI, BSB 032 621, A/c No. 372 372. Thank you.

#### School Chaplains

For 2020 we have Parry, Walhallow, Walget, Oxley Vale, Quirindi, Mullaley, Tamworth Public (we financially support), Curlewis, Nyngan, Narrabri, Attunga, Duri and have gained Moonbi, Kootingal, Tambar Springs, Werris Creek, Carinya and Liberty. Keep these chaplains in your prayers.

#### Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716 or Ted Woodhart 6766 1804.

#### Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 6 March.

#### Monthly Lunch & Chatter

Friday, 6 March we're going to have lunch at Tamwell, Barton Lane from 12noon. Everyone's welcome to join us. Let Lorraine know 6766 6891.

#### **Doing it for our Farmers**

Distribution Day, Saturday, 7 March from Jubilee Hall.

#### Worship on Sunday, 8 March—Lent Wk2

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: R Duns; D: M Duns, J Carthew, S Perkins; PP: J Phillips; O: R Richardson. Sunday School.

#### Meals on Wheels

Our next Kitchen Rostered day is Tuesday, 10 March from 8am.

#### **Compassionate Friends**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 11 March from 10am.

#### **City Church Singers**

Calling all singers—anyone interested in singing—come and join us for some items we're presenting on Palm Sunday (A Cheering, Canting, Dizzy Crowd) and Good Friday (Here Hangs a Man Discarded). We'll have some practices starting Thursday, 12 March at 4pm in the church. Each Thursday until 2nd.

#### **Emmaus Board Meeting**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 12 March from 6pm.

#### **Senior Communion**

Monthly Senior Communion at the UNITING St Andrew's Village Community Hall on Friday, 13 March from 10am with Rev Henry Swindon. Contact Barb McLean 6766 4039.

#### **Emmaus Trivia Night**

Night of fun and frivolity on Saturday, 29 February from 7pm in Gunnedah. Contact Bec Wright 0479 016 967. A question to get you started: 'What do your friends and neighbours think are the strengths of Tamworth City Uniting Church?' You may have had people make a comment to you about this congregation OR you might need to ask them!

We will finish by 12.15pm at the latest (earlier if you come well prepared!).

#### **Doing It For Our Farmers**

We continue to support our local farmers with drought relief packages, vouchers and prayers. There is always someone in need. Focussing on getting children back to school in February.

## This week's Events

#### **Kairos Outside Sewing Group**

Kairos Outside Sewing Group will be meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Mondays from 9:30am-3pm each week during school terms.

#### Op Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine Furze (0401 762 463) or Judy Phillips (0418 662 081).

#### UNITING—Home & Community Support

Gathering in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm.

#### **Church Office**

Office hours 9am-2pm Tuesdays to Fridays. Don't forget to book meetings and check availability of halls. Thank you. Nicolette.

#### **Locomotive Line Dancing**

Tuesdays from 9:30am-12:30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

#### Shrove Tuesday—Pancake Day

The Adult Fellowship will host a pancake morning tea on Tuesday, 25 February from 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Everyone's welcome to join in this feast before we start Lent.



#### Ash Wednesday

The start of the forty days of Lent begins on Wednesday, 26 March. We will have a time of worship to commence the season at 8am in the Church. A cuppa will be available after our time together.

#### **Op Shop Working Bee**

Wednesdays from 9am. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work, then a cuppa!. All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.

#### Young Families Support Group

Meeting on Wednesday, 26 February from 4pm in Wesley Room.

#### **Rainbow Cottage Management Committee**

Meeting on Wednesday, 26 February from 5pm at Rainbow Cottage.

#### **New Vogue Dance Group**

Recommencing in Jubilee Hall 6-9:30pm Wednesdays.

#### **Meditation Service**

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh on Wednesdays evenings from 6pm in the Chapel area. During School Terms.

#### **Stepping Stones Play Group**

Join us at Tamworth City from 10am-12noon on Thursdays in the Dunn Hall. Or at Tamworth Southside Tuesdays 10am-12noon. Come along and support Jillian on Thursday mornings, help make a cuppa, chat to the mums.

#### Yoga Group

Thursdays in St Andrew's Room 9:30-11am from 6 February.

#### **NENW Presbytery Meetings**

PRC on Friday, 28 February, full Presbytery meeting in Uralla on Saturday, 29 February from 9am.

#### **Emmaus Trivia Night**

Night of fun and frivolity on Saturday, 29 February from 7pm in Armidale. Contact Bec Wright 0479 016 967.



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# Next Week & Beyond

#### Worship on Sunday, 1 March—Lent Wk1

9am Worship Service and Sacrament of Holy Communion with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: N Dezius, J Dezius, A Ashworth, P Turner, P Battle; D: W Townsend, Kathy, R Barclay; PP: M Miles; O: R Greer. Food Hamper Sunday. Sunday School.

# *Stories that Give Life* and Morning Tea in Jubilee Hall after worship.

#### **Adult Fellowship**

No meeting on Tuesday, 3 March. We're enjoying pancakes on 25th Feb.

#### Lenten Studies

We will have our Lenten Studies, commencing Tuesday, 3 March from 7pm in Wesley Room (Rev Betty's Office) for 5 weeks. We will be using the Lent Event Bible Studies "Jesus the Other—Embracing Difference". Looking at how Christians and Muslims in Ambon, Philippines, work together to build lives of dignity. An alternate session is offered Thursday afternoons at 2pm.

#### Friends of Nioka

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 3 March from 7pm.

#### Flourish—Waterless Carwash Opening

A Flourish Australia Community Business grant opening of Tamworth's first Waterless Carwash on Wednesday, 4 March 10am-12noon at 131 Bridge Street. Come along and support a new sustainable business.

#### Minister's Fraternal Tamworth City-Wide Prayer Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 4 March from 7pm. All are welcome to join in.

#### **ACW World Day of Prayer**

The Australian Church Women invite you to join them for their World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6 March from 10am at the Baptist Church, Hillvue Road. The theme is set by the women of Zimbabwe this year "Rise! Take your mat and walk." Morning tea to follow service.