



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

19 May 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Acts 2:1-21 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit Comes

2 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.

6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee," **8** and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, **10** Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!"

12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

.....continued

Peter Preaches to the Crowd

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. **15** These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. **16** No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—

and they will prophesy.

19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below—

blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.

21 But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'

Other Lectionary Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34,35b

Romans 8:22-27 John 16:4b-12



No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. ~ Charles Dickens

CHURCH SERVICES

26 May 11am West Tamworth ~ Fay Monckton





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the Blanch family as they mourn the loss of Heather. We give thanks for a life well lived.
- We give thanks for such a mild and beautiful autumn.
- We pray for a ceasefire in the Middle East.
- We thank Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to help us through life.
- We pray for Betty Lennon (Judy's sister-in-law), who is in palliative care in Bingara Hospital. We also pray for Michael and Vicki, Betty's son and daughter.

Meg's Musings

Pentecost seems like a good time to ask ourselves, "What does the voice of God - or the Holy Spirit - sound like?"

God's voice is full of grace, mercy and kindness. It's never judgmental.

The voice of God is life-giving.

The voice of God is creative, always finding some new solution in even the most difficult of circumstances.

The voice of God respects our free will. God doesn't want to override us, but to walk beside us.

It is the deepest desire of God's heart to be in intimate conversation with each of us.

When we are willing to listen to God's voice, we enrich every aspect of our lives.

Blessings from Meg



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



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

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



Words from Rev Geoff

This Sunday we come again today to the surprise and joy of Pentecost, which brings us to the conclusion of the season of Easter with a burst of excitement, celebrating what has been called the "birthday of the church"; However, it could be argued that the church's birth day was the day God chose a people to "bless the nation"; through the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. Both in Matthew's Gospel and Paul's letter to the Romans, the Mediterranean church has its origins in the promise made to Abraham and Sarah.

That said it is Peter's sermon as we have it recorded in the book of Acts Chapter 2 which gives birth to the rapid spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth and forms the basis of our traditional celebrations on Pentecost Sunday.

What I like most about the celebration of Pentecost is that the commercial world has not yet got a hold of Pentecost. Unlike Christmas Easter and Halloween, there are no chocolate flames and cute fluffy doves for sale in the shops.

For those of us in the Uniting Church the day of Pentecost has served to remind us that the Gospel can be proclaimed in many languages, and it is an occasion for us to celebrate our cultural and linguistic diversity. And I pray that we might grow our relationships with the 500 PALM workers from nine Pacific Islands that are currently living in Tamworth.

This month I have baptised several adults and children, I am mindful that the Spirit is the gift that keeps on giving from the moment we are named and claimed in baptism until we die to this world and rise to eternal life. I also wonder when we say the Apostles Creed, do we really believe in the Holy Spirit.

Do we believe that Holy Spirit is at work doing a new thing, re-forming us as church, reigniting a passion and fire for the gospel, and giving us a new language that speaks to this age, our time, and our contexts. Are we willing to let go of the dry bones and dusty glory of some former decade to embrace new dreams and visions. I acknowledge that this is disconcerting, especially for those among us who don't do change well. But remember, we do not do this alone. Jesus has sent the Advocate, and this Holy Spirit will guide us always into the truth. This is our promise.

So, come Holy Spirit, come and renew your Church.

Reverend Geoff



John 15:26–27 (NLT)

²⁶ “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

²⁷ And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

John 16:12–15 (NLT)

¹² “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

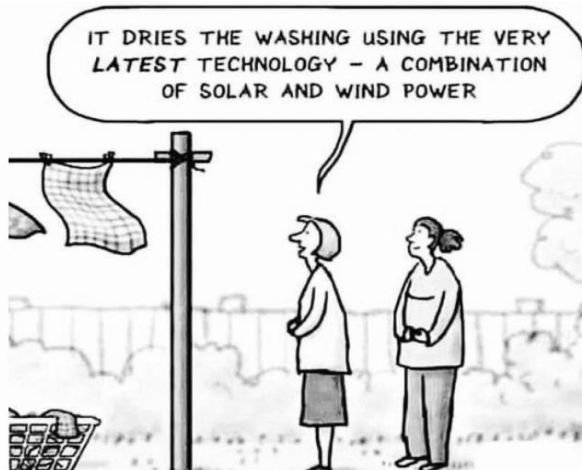
¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’”

A quick update from your JNC: the JNC have been actively engaging in conversations that look like being a real possibility.

We need to remember that we actively prepare in appropriate ways, including accommodation arrangements, which is a commitment from Tamworth Southside Congregation.

We are working towards congregational meetings on 23 June to provide more detailed information.

(extract from City news)



Kenyan runner Abel Mutai was a few meters from the finish line, but got confused by the signals and stopped, thinking he had finished the race.

The Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, was right behind him and, realizing what was happening in front of him, began shouting for the Kenyan to keep running.

Motai did not know Spanish and did not understand.

Fernandez pushed Mutai to victory.

One reporter asked Evan, "Why did you do this?" Evan replied, "My dream is that one day we can have the kind of community life that pushes ourselves and others to win as well."

"But why did you let the Kenyan win?" the reporter insisted. Evan replied, "I didn't let him win, he would win. It was his race."

The reporter insisted and asked again: "But you could have won!"

Evan looked at him and replied, "But what is the merit of my victory? What is the honor of this medal? What will my mother think?"

Values are transmitted from generation to generation. What values do we teach our children through our example? How can we use our strengths to lift up those around us?

Let us not teach our kids the wrong ways and means to WIN.

Instead, let us pass on the beauty and humanity of a helping hand. Because honesty and ethics are WINNING!

Most of us take advantage of people's weaknesses rather than helping to strengthen.

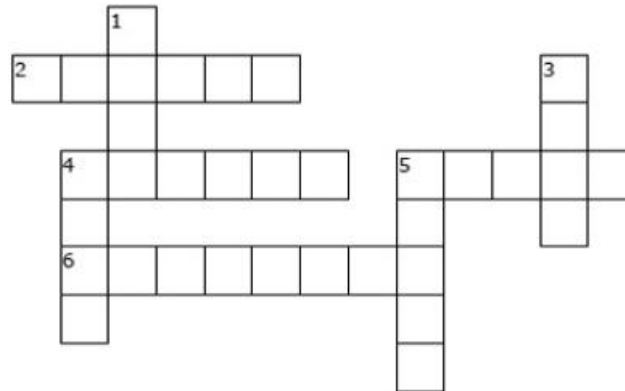
~ anon

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

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



ACROSS

2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
4. The place where God lives
5. Something that can be heard
6. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country

DOWN

1. A destructive burning
3. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
4. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
5. To say words, to use the voice

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

SPEAK	LANGUAGE	PENTECOST	HEAVEN	BLOWING
SOUND	OTHER	HOLY	SPIRIT	HEAR
FILLED	WIND	FIRE	TONGUES	AMAZED

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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