



February 4 WEEK LENTEN STUDY



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

26 May 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

John 3:1-17 (NLT)

3 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.

2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

9 "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

10 Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things?"

11 I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony.

.....continued

12 But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.



Other Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12-17





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Bob and Robyn Riek, Lynne's brother and sister in law. Bob is doing it tough at the moment.
- We pray for Doug Crowell, who had surgery this week.
- Although the weather is nipper, we give thanks that Tamworth's gardens are still looking lovely.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine - those who remain in their country, and those scattered around the world.
- We pray for wisdom for world political leaders at this time.

Meg's Musings

It seemed that winter arrived in Tamworth last Saturday afternoon. There was an icy southerly wind blowing, and the temperature plummeted.

This week I have noticed our first jonquil blooming - a further sign of a change to winter. We all notice little changes from time to time - in our garden, in our movement (or lack of), and in our energy levels.

We notice changes in how ambitious our cooking efforts are, and how long we can manage without a "nana nap".

But there are positives that appear as well.

We find that when we have the opportunity to chat to someone, we begin to have a meaningful and pleasurable relationship with them.

We find that as we have more time for prayer, our relationship with God grows too.

Sometimes we can feel that each change we experience is negative - but it needn't be.

God has more in store for us each day - and most of it is very, very, good. *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

Trinity Sunday

The Trinity is a human attempt to define the internal divine relationship. It is not mentioned in the scriptures, but there are references and remarks in all the four readings set down for this Sunday, that allude to its reality. We don't understand it, yet it is a way of understanding the Holy One. We cannot adequately explain it, yet it is a way of explaining the nature of the Mysterious One. A colleague of mine used to joke with me that Trinity Sunday was the Sunday most preachers like to avoid. Perhaps that is because Trinity Sunday may be the most challenging to preach because it requires the humility to affirm that we don't know, don't understand, and can't explain while proceeding with the attempt to make sense of it—to find the truth of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The simple explanation of the Trinity is that they are appearances of the same God. The distinctiveness is experienced in how we encounter the living, loving God. I've used the illustration of the different forms of water—solid, liquid, and vapour—as a metaphor for the Trinity. I've lifted up that moment when Jesus is baptized and the Voice and the Dove come for the celebration. But, I don't know how it works, because I don't fully understand God.

The Trinitarian formula insists that the nature of God is closer to a loving community than to a lofty individuality. The highest form of existence, of personal being, is communal. God is communal. A choir singing at perfect pitch and in perfect harmony is closer to a definition of God than a lone soloist singing their heart out.

If this is the God we worship, then true greatness lies in the direction of community rather than in self-sufficient individuality. That is why meeting together for fellowship and prayer is essential for Christians. The church community reflects God (or should!) far better than a lone minister or priest, no matter how gifted that pastor may happen to be. Individualism is the way of limitation, diminishment, and death. Growth takes place when we give to others and receive from others; when we know we need them, and they need us.

My prayer for Trinity Sunday is that you take the opportunity to take the limits off your understanding of who God is and embrace the humility of never fully figuring that out. At the same time, you have the glorious possibility to discover more of the character and nature of the Limitless God.

Reverend Geoff



May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. ~ Nelson Mandela

My Neighbour's Corn

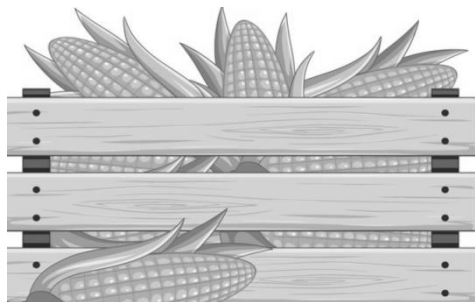
There was once a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seeds with his neighbours.

"How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbours when they are entering in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Don't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbours grow good corn."

So it is with our lives. Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. The quality of response and joy depends on the quality of thoughts and love we share and spread.

And those who choose to be joyful must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.



~ unknown

A Cup of Tea

When the world is all at odds
And the mind is all at sea
Then cease the useless tedium
And brew a cup of tea.

There is magic in its fragrance,
There is solace in its taste;
And the laden moments vanish
Somehow into space.



The world becomes a lovely thing!
There's beauty as you'll see;
All because you briefly stopped
To brew a cup of tea.

~ anaon

HYMN FOR HIM

Greater love hath no man
Than this,
That he lay down his phone
For his friend
And go to his side
To care and abide,
To hold and support
and to mend.



Leung

CHURCH SERVICES

2 June 11:00 am **West Tamworth** ~

~ Rev Tony Schumach, *Lunch to follow*

9 June 11:00am **West Tamorth**

~ Rev Geoff Flynn

16 June 8:30am **Gowrie**

~ Meg Mangan



16 June 11:00am **West Tamworth**

~ Meg Mangan

23 June 11:00am **West Tamworth**

~ Meg Mangan, *Parish meeting to follow*

30 June 11:00am **Hallsville**

Combined Service

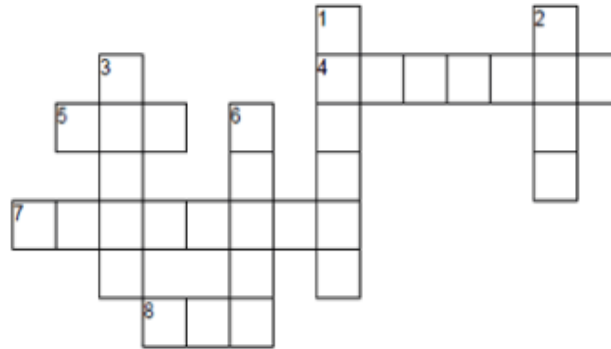
~ Rev Geoff Flynn, *Lunch to follow*

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

4. Lasting forever; without end
5. Male offspring
7. Accept something as being true, genuine, or real
8. The creator of heaven and earth

DOWN

1. To die or be destroyed
2. To rescue from danger or harm
3. The earth with its inhabitants and everything on it
6. Cared very deeply for someone

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

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD