



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

25 August 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Psalm 84 (NLT)

- ¹ I pray to you, O LORD, my rock.
Do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you are silent,
I might as well give up and die.
- ² Listen to my prayer for mercy
as I cry out to you for help,
as I lift my hands toward your holy
sanctuary.
- ³ Do not drag me away with the wicked—
with those who do evil—
those who speak friendly words to their
neighbors
while planning evil in their hearts.
- ⁴ Give them the punishment they so
richly deserve!
Measure it out in proportion to their
wickedness.
Pay them back for all their evil deeds!
Give them a taste of what they have
done to others.
- ⁵ They care nothing for what
the LORD has done
or for what his hands have made.
So he will tear them down,
and they will never be rebuilt!
- ⁶ Praise the LORD!
For he has heard my cry for mercy.
- ⁷ The LORD is my strength and shield.
I trust him with all my heart.
He helps me, and my heart is filled with
joy.
I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.
- ⁸ The LORD gives his people strength.
He is a safe fortress for his anointed
king.
- ⁹ Save your people!
Bless Israel, your special possession.
Lead them like a shepherd,
and carry them in your arms forever.

Ephesians 6:10–20 (NLT)

The Whole Armor of God

- ¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in
his mighty power.
- ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will
be able to stand firm against all strategies
of the devil.
- ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-
blood enemies, but against evil rulers and
authorities of the unseen world, against
mighty powers in this dark world, and
against evil spirits in the heavenly places.
- ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's
armor so you will be able to resist the
enemy in the time of evil. Then after the
battle you will still be standing firm.
- ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of
truth and the body armor of God's
righteousness.
- ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes
from the Good News so that you will be
fully prepared.
- ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the
shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the
devil.
- ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take
the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of
God.
- ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every
occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in
your prayers for all believers everywhere.
- ¹⁹ And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me
the right words so I can boldly explain
God's mysterious plan that the Good News
is for Jews and Gentiles alike.
- ²⁰ I am in chains now, still preaching this
message as God's ambassador. So pray
that I will keep on speaking boldly for him,
as I should.

Spuddle (17th century):

"To work ineffectively; to be extremely
busy whilst achieving absolutely nothing."



Other Lectionary Readings:

1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43
John 6:56-69





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Alan Littlejohns and Jan Parker as they recover from Influenza A.
- We pray for Rick Monckton, who is still having ongoing health problems after a snakebite last December.
- We pray for Bruce Jarrett who is just out of hospital.
- We pray for Beulah Fenwick, who is still in the Rehab Unit, and is continuing to improve.
- We give thanks that Glenda Whitten's health is improving.

Meg's Musings

Spring has put on such a wonderful display this year. We've had plenty of rain, and less wind than usual. Blossoms have stayed in place, meaning that trees have been covered in blossom for far longer. Magnolias and prunus trees have looked so colourful. Lavender and Rosemary bushes have also been producing lots of flowers. Daisy bushes are blooming early.

Violets, and Irises in sunny spots are flourishing; Pansies are "smiling".

It feels as though all of creation is feeling the breath of God upon it.

Would we also flourish so beautifully and bountifully, If we were more open to God's breath?

Blessings from Meg



"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring." ~ Bernard Williams

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 -

The Whole Armour of God.

This Sunday's reading from Ephesians 6:10-20 is a very well-known and memorable bible passage. Most commentators understand this text to be a unified whole that can be broken into three sections. The first section (v. 10-13) deals with the real necessity of fighting the powers with the weapons of God. The second section (v. 14-17) details the various pieces of armour that must be put on. The third section (v. 18-20) calls the community to pray against the powers and for the imprisoned Apostle.

The claim that "our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh" (6:12) but rather "against the wiles of the devil" (6:11) leads many interpreters to conclude that the passage is about a spiritual struggle on the part of individual believers. Martin Luther imagined devils tempting him. He also proclaimed that just one name, "Jesus Christ," can defeat them. Christ will win the battle, even if our prosperity, good name, and life itself are threatened.

Walter Wink challenged the notion of conceptualising the powers and principalities as an order of angelic and demonic beings in heaven. Rather he proposed that Paul's framework of powers as presented in Ephesians 6 was concerned with structural, social, political and state powers.

Regardless of our theology, we can recognize the powers of evil. We don't need to identify their ultimate source to recognize their power to destroy; they are irrational, hateful, yet attractive to some. We need moral strength but more than that we need to open ourselves to God's grace, wisdom, and mercy, to help us to stand firm against evil. God's energy of love provides the protection we need to face, even in all our fear and trembling, panic and trauma, the destructive forces – and dare we say, persons and spirits – of life. Difficulties do not excuse us from moral greatness. We are largest in stature when we face life's challenges with love and self-control. On the cross, Jesus forgives his enemies. Their hate cannot determine his response: his love is stronger than their fear, and his grace is stronger than their sin.

The call to prayer is the climax of this letter to the Ephesian church and so I leave you to ponder the Message's paraphrase of verse 18. "Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."

Reverend Geoff



"Last year, I had a life-changing experience at 90 years old. I went to space, after decades of playing an iconic science-fiction character who was exploring the universe. I thought I would experience a deep connection with the immensity around us, a deep call for endless exploration.

"I was absolutely wrong. The strongest feeling, that dominated everything else by far, was the deepest grief that I had ever experienced.



"I understood, in the clearest possible way, that we were living on a tiny oasis of life, surrounded by an immensity of death.

I didn't see infinite possibilities of worlds to explore, of adventures to have, or living creatures to connect with. I saw the deepest darkness I could have ever imagined, contrasting so starkly with the welcoming warmth of our nurturing home planet.

"This was an immensely powerful awakening for me. It filled me with sadness. I realized that we had spent decades, if not centuries, being obsessed with looking away, with looking outside. I did my share in popularizing the idea that space was the final frontier. But I had to get to space to understand that Earth is and will stay our only home. And that we have been ravaging it, relentlessly, making it uninhabitable."

~ William Shatner, AKA James T. Kirk in the Star Trek

Singing Group - West Tamworth

2nd & 4th Monday 10am

Followed by a cuppa and a chat.....



"Sometimes people are beautiful.
Not in looks. Not in what they say.
Just in what they are."

~ Markus Zusa

A Polish legend tells the tale,
Of tiny kittens, oh so frail.

Along the river's edge they chased.
With butterflies, they played and raced.

They came too close to the river's side,
And, thus, fell in. Their mother cried.

What could she do but weep and moan?
Her babies' fate were yet unknown.

The willows, by the river, knew
Just what it was that they must do.

They swept their graceful branches down
Into the waters, all around.

To reach the kittens was their goal;
A rescue mission, heart and soul.

The kittens grasped the branches tight.
The willows saved them from their plight.

Each springtime since, the story goes,
Willow branches now wear clothes.

Tiny fur like buds are sprung
Where little kittens once had clung.

And that's the legend, so they claim,
How Pussy Willows Got Their Name!

Dot McGinnis



CHURCH SERVICES

31 August

2pm **City Church** ~ Induction of Rev Sam Sadrata

1 September

11am **Southside** ~ Combined Service followed by lunch



8 September

11am **West Tamworth** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn and Rev Sam Sadrata

15 September

8:30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan

11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan

22 September

11am **West Tamworth** ~ TBA

29 September

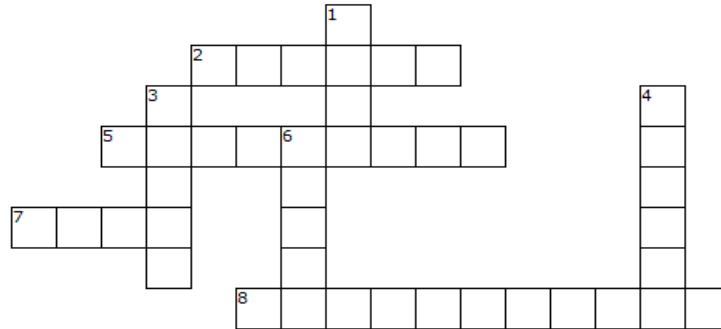
11am **West Tamworth** ~ Meg Mangan

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

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17



ACROSS

2. A piece of metal carried to protect the front of the body
5. To deliver from the penalty of sin
7. A flexible band of leather or cloth, worn around the waist
8. A piece of armor that covers the breast

DOWN

1. The body parts at the end of the legs
3. Trust or confidence in God
4. A hard hat that covers and protects the head
6. A covering of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

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

HELMET	ARMOR	SPIRIT	SWORD	STAND
WAIST	SALVATION	BELT	FEET	FAITH
FULL	GOD	EVIL	FLAMING	PEACE
GOSPEL	BREASTPLATE	SHIELD	BUCKLED	ARROWS

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