



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

24 November 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST

## John 18:33-37 (NLT)

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

<sup>37</sup> Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

## 2 Samuel 23:1-7 (NLT)

**23** These are the last words of David: "David, the son of Jesse, speaks— David, the man who was raised up so high, David, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, David, the sweet psalmist of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD speaks through me;

his words are upon my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> The God of Israel spoke.

The Rock of Israel said to me:

'The one who rules righteously, who rules in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> is like the light of morning at sunrise, like a morning without clouds, like the gleaming of the sun on new grass after rain.'

<sup>5</sup> "Is it not my family God has chosen? Yes, he has made an everlasting covenant with me.

His agreement is arranged and guaranteed in every detail.

He will ensure my safety and success.

<sup>6</sup> But the godless are like thorns to be thrown away, for they tear the hand that touches them.

<sup>7</sup> One must use iron tools to chop them down; they will be totally consumed by fire."

## CHURCH SERVICES

**1 December 11am West ~ Meg Mangan**



**8 December 11am West ~ Rev Geoff Flynn**

**15 December 11am West ~ Meg Mangan**

**22 December 11am West ~ Rev Sam Sadrata**

## 22 December

**11am Peel Valley Christmas Service**  
West Tamworth.

## 24 December

**7:30pm Family Christmas Service**  
Tamworth City



## 24 December

**11pm Midnight Communion Christmas Serviced**  
Southside.

## 25 December

**9am Christmas Day Service**  
Southside.



## Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 132:1-12, (13-18)

Revelations 1:4b-8



Just a reminder...



## NOTICE:

Our **Peel Valley AGM** will be held on Sunday, **8 December**.

It will be held at West Tamworth at the conclusion of our 11:00pm worship service.

Life is a long lesson in humility. ~ J.M. Barrie



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Bruce Jarrett, Elva Shumack and Jenny Bissett as they move into aged care facilities.
- We pray for Laurie Mangan, who has been moved to the rehab ward.
- We pray for Ben Monckton, who has damaged his back.
- We give thanks for the rain, and the cooler weather we enjoyed earlier in the week.
- As we celebrate 130 years of worship at Hallsville, we give thanks for the many people who joined together to build our worship centres.

### Meg's Musings

Laurie's appetite hasn't been good whilst he's spent the past weeks in hospital. Some creativity has been required to help him to have an interest in food.

I, and our son, Pete, have taken some food to the hospital. A hot dog, a sausage roll, a BBQ'd sausage and coleslaw in a roll have all helped relieve the monotony of hospital food.

Ordering a salad and some bread made it possible to make a fresh sandwich.

Using a cup, we made a spider from the ice-cream and lemonade supplied for lunch.

Using a bit of ingenuity, we have been navigating our way through a difficult time.

God calls on us to help others who are facing difficulties in whatever ways we can.

Often everything we need is right there - we just need to be open to God to help us to see, and use things in new ways.

*Blessing 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 Sam Sadrata

I remembered the first time I went for a job interview at the Kingsford-Smith airport in Sydney. The task was to share a little bit about yourself, what are your hobbies, your interests, where is your dream holiday destination (given that it was at the airport). The very last question, the question that caught me off guard is that of "who are you?". I guess they ask this question to try to get a better judgment of character on who you truly are.

I started to think, maybe I should talk about my awesome rugby career, or perhaps that I was in Ministry formation, or maybe the fact that I am the youngest among my siblings, so no matter if I am a minister, I am still viewed as baba?

'Who are you?' A question of Identity that lingers in my mind upon reading this text from John. Yet, identity, action, and truth are three of the questions that are at the core of this interaction between Pilate and Jesus. They are not a simple 'yes or no' question. They take thought and perhaps extensive deep reflections.

For me, being truly ourselves is one of the hardest things we do these days and getting harder. Don't you sometimes struggle to be yourself and have authenticity and integrity regardless of where you are, who you're with, or what is happening? Someone once told me; different people will say different things on who you are, but that is dependent on how you hold yourself authentically around them.

Jesus never let his identity, action, or truth be determined by where he was or who he was with. Instead, he brought his identity, action, and truth to every place he went, every person he met, and every circumstance he faced. Who he was here is who he was over there.

Pilate asks, 'are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate is seeking authenticity and integrity, seeking information. Jesus knows that it's not a simple question answered by yes or no, our name, the work we do, the roles we fill, our birthplace, where we live, or who we're related to. Yet, Jesus changes the direction of Pilate's question. "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" It's as if Christ is asking, "Who's directing your life? Is it you or someone or something else that caused you to ask that question?" and perhaps that question is directed to us also.

Our struggle for authenticity and integrity is the struggle, I find, to reclaim ourselves. It's the way of healing and wholeness, and it's always a work in process. Every place we go, every person we meet, every circumstance we face hold before us questions of our authenticity and integrity. Might our identity be found authentically in the identity of Christ the King.

*Rev Sam Sadrata*



## Old Hands

Grandpa, who was in his nineties, sat quietly on the patio bench, staring down at his hands. He didn't move or speak, just sat with his head bowed, focused on his hands. I joined him, but he didn't acknowledge me. As I sat beside him, I began to worry if something was wrong. After a while, I gently asked, "Are you OK, Grandpa?"

He lifted his head, smiled warmly, and replied, "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking."

"I didn't mean to disturb you," I said, "but you were just sitting here staring at your hands, and I wanted to make sure you were alright."

He smiled again and asked, "Have you ever really looked at your hands? I mean, really looked at them?"

Curious, I opened my hands and examined them, turning them over, palms up, then down. I hadn't really thought much about my hands before, and I tried to understand what Grandpa was getting at.

Seeing my confusion, Grandpa began to share, "Take a moment to think about your hands, how they've served you throughout your life. My hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak now, have been my tools for living.

They've fed me, clothed me, and allowed me to embrace life. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They've been dirty, scraped, raw, swollen, and bent. They fumbled when I held my newborn son for the first time. Adorned with my wedding band, they told the world I was married and in love. They trembled as I buried my parents, my spouse, and when I walked my daughter down the aisle.

These hands have covered my face in sorrow, combed my hair. They've been sticky, wet, broken, dried, and raw.

And even now, when the rest of me doesn't work as well as it used . to, these hands still hold me up, lay me down, and fold in prayer." He paused, then continued, "These hands are the story of where I've been, a testament to the ruggedness of my life. But most importantly, these hands will be the ones God takes when He leads me home. With these hands, I will touch the face of Christ." His words left me in awe, and I knew I would never look at my hands the same way again. When Grandpa passed away, I remembered how God had taken his hands and led him home. Now, whenever my hands ache or are sore, I think of Grandpa and how his hands were held by God ~ unknown

A kind woman was once asked, "How can you be so gentle in a world that is so harsh?" She smiled and, pointing to her heart, she said, "When you are strong on the inside, you can afford to be soft on the outside, for there is no need to prove what already exists within." ~ Tahlia Hunter

**Peel Valley Congregation .....**  
**19 January, 2025 Country Gospel**  
**Breakfast at Hallsville.**

Peel Valley Congregation in recess til ...  
**26 January 11am West~ Rev Sam Sadrata**



**All truth passes through three stages.** First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

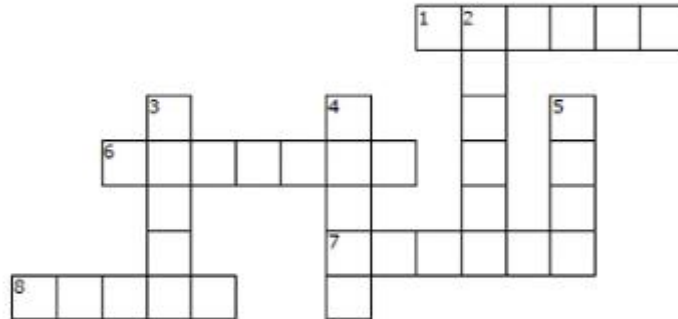
— Arthur Schopenhauer

May you always have:  
Love to share,  
Cash to spare,  
Tires with air,  
And friends who care. ~ unknown

# Crown Him King



"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."  
John 18:37 (NIV)



## ACROSS

1. Where a king or queen lives
6. An area or territory ruled by king or queen
7. To make an effort to hear something
8. A statement proven to be or accepted as accurate or factual

## DOWN

2. To capture and hold under the authority of law
3. To battle, quarrel, or argue; a conflict between two or more people
4. The earth or universe
5. Brought into life by birth

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

arrest	fight	listens	priest	servants
born	idea	palace	reason	testify
everyone	king	people	right	truth
fact	kingdom	place	saying	world

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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