



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

8 December 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Malachi 3:1-4 (NLT)

1 This is the message that the LORD gave to Israel through the prophet Malachi.

The LORD's Love for Israel

2 "I have always loved you," says the LORD. But you retort, "Really? How have you loved us?"

And the LORD replies, "This is how I showed my love for you: I loved your ancestor Jacob, **3** but I rejected his brother, Esau, and devastated his hill country. I turned Esau's inheritance into a desert for jackals."

4 Esau's descendants in Edom may say, "We have been shattered, but we will rebuild the ruins."

But the LORD of Heaven's Armies replies, "They may try to rebuild, but I will demolish them again. Their country will be known as 'The Land of Wickedness,' and their people will be called 'The People with Whom the LORD Is Forever Angry.' **5** When you see the destruction for yourselves, you will say, 'Truly, the LORD's greatness reaches far beyond Israel's borders!'"

Unworthy Sacrifices

6 The LORD of Heaven's Armies says to the priests: "A son honours his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honour and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name!

"But you ask, 'How have we ever shown contempt for your name?'"

7 "You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar.

"Then you ask, 'How have we defiled the sacrifices'"

"You defile them by saying the altar of the LORD deserves no respect. **8** When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.continued

9 "Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show you any favor at all?" asks the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

10 "How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "and I will not accept your offerings."

11 But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

12 "But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it's all right to defile the Lord's table."

13 You say, 'It's too hard to serve the LORD,' and you turn up your noses at my commands," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "Think of it! Animals that are stolen and crippled and sick are being presented as offerings! Should I accept from you such offerings as these?" asks the LORD.

14 "Cursed is the cheat who promises to give a fine ram from his flock but then sacrifices a defective one to the Lord.

For I am a great king," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "and my name is feared among the nations!"

Other Lectionary Readings:

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11



Peel Valley AGM Sunday, 8 December.

West Tamworth

after 11:00am worship service.



CHURCH SERVICES

15 December 11am West ~Meg Mangan

22 December 11am West ~Rev Sam Sadrata



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



Luke 3:1-6 (NLT)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene.

2 Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.

3 Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

4 Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

5 The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.

6 And then all people will see the salvation sent from God."

Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.

~ The Grinch

22 December 11am Peel Valley Christmas Service at West Tamworth.



24 December 7:30pm Family Christmas Service at Tamworth City



24 December 11pm Midnight Communion Christmas Serviced at Southside.

25 December 9am Christmas Day Service at Southside.

Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



Words from Rev Geoff

A Baptism of Repentance

This Sunday our Gospel reading (Luke 3:1-6) reacquaints us with the role John the Baptist has in preparing the way for the coming of Jesus and challenges our complacency about sin. Luke dates his story in relation to Emperor Tiberius and the Roman leadership in and around Judea. Pilate, Herod, and Caiaphas are all mentioned. Herod would be responsible for the death of John the Baptist and, along with Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas, would be in part responsible for the death of Christ.

Many Jewish people believed that it was because of their sin and rebellion as a nation that God had allowed the Roman Empire to occupy and control Israel. That was why some Jewish religious leaders became so focused on properly keeping the Law of Moses. They thought that if the nation could perfectly keep the law, then God would finally deliver Israel from the Romans and restore Israel to its rightful place among the nations.

So, when John the Baptist, and later Peter at Pentecost, speak about "the forgiveness of sins," they are not talking about gaining eternal life and entrance into heaven, but about the great Jewish hope of finally being freed from the twin enemies of sin and Roman occupation. Forgiveness is both freedom from the captivating and addictive power of sin and from the awful political and national consequences of sin for the people of Israel.

The question then for us this Advent is, "Are we prepared to join John the Baptist in the wilderness, or shall we continue to define ourselves by the dominant culture, by Tiberius, Pilate, Herod, and Caiaphas?"

Most of these men thought they were doing what was right. Few leaders see themselves as evil but looking back we can see how the pressures of the time led them to compromise with sin. Could it be that we too are compromising with sin?

Advent is a time to slow down and reflect on our life and to repent where necessary. To repent, is to change direction, and all the thinking, wishing and praying in the absence of action will not create repentance. We individually and corporately must turn around and go down the road.

Once we take that first step, God takes care of the rest. Christ prepares the road for us and leads us back to God.

Reverend Geoff



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that Peter Scorgie and Jan Parker will continue to recover after their stays in hospital.
- We pray for Laurie Mangan who remains in hospital.
- We also pray for Bruce Jarrett, who is in respite care at Signature Nursing Home.
- We pray for Glenda, Donna and Jim at Alblas.
- We give thanks for Jesus, the "Reason for the Season".
- We pray for nursing staff at our hospitals and nursing homes.

Meg's Musings

It's the time of year when we think about our friends who are scattered throughout NSW, Australia, and maybe even throughout the world.

In times past, the postman brought a swag of Christmas cards, telling about the family's activities and highlights for the year.

Mantelpieces were bedecked with dozens of cards, and family members returning home could do a quick catch-up on lots of acquaintances just by checking out the cards.

These days, so many people stay in touch via Facebook and other information platforms. It's instant, but it's far less personal. Thousands of people, and in some cases millions of people are reading the same information. The personal, and the special, have disappeared.

This year, as you sit and choose a card for a particular person, and decide what you will share with them, spare a thought for those people who will never share the joys which Christmas cards have brought.

We have been blessed by what Christmas cards have meant to us.

Blessing from Meg



Its Christmas in the heart that puts
Christmas in the air. ~ W T Ellis

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



- ❖ The first Christmas card on record was sent out sometime in 1611. However, the first commercial Christmas card was sold in 1843, by Sir Henry Cole and designed by John Horsley. Nearly 1000 of the cards were sold for a shilling each.
- ❖ Christmas cards as we know them today, with a fold down the middle and an envelope, didn't appear until the early 20th century. Frustrated with the choices available, the Hall Brothers, later known as Hallmark, created the folded card concept.
- ❖ National Christmas Card day is celebrated on the 9th of December, the date that Sir Henry Cole printed the first commercial Christmas card
- ❖ The most popular design on a Christmas Card is an illustration of 3 angels, to date, the card has sold over 34 million copies.
- ❖ Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings are the two most common messages printed on the front of Christmas Cards.
- ❖ In the 19th century The British Post Office used to deliver Christmas Cards on Christmas morning!

~ Puka



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

Peel Valley Congregation in recess til

26 January 11am West~ Rev Sam Sadrata



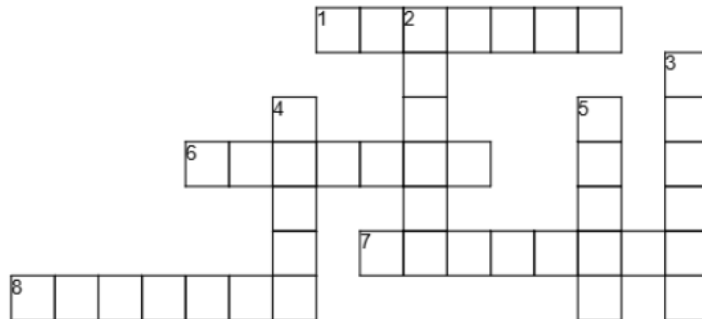
..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6



HORIZONTAL

1. To grant a pardon for sin.
6. Having bends, curves, or angles.
7. Having no bends or curves.
8. To make things ore oneself ready.

VERTICAL

2. To turn away from one's sins.
3. Having a surface free from roughness
4. What we use to speak.
5. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface

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

CALLING
 VOICE
 CROOKED

STRAIGHT
 VALLEY
 ROUGH

DESERT
 PREPARE
 SMOOTH

REPENT
 FORGIVE
 PREACHING

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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