

PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ throughout the Pioneer Valley and in
Worship Services at Walkerston, Mirani, Eungella*



'The Window' 6th September, 2020

**MORNING TEA IS NOT BE SERVED FOLLOWING WORSHIP UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

Bible Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[b] was brought to him.

25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

27 The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Discipleship Thought: In 1980, the year after the Iranian Revolution, Bahram Dehqani-Tafti, the twenty-four year old son of Margaret and Hassan Dehqani-Tafti was murdered in Tehran. At the time Hassan was Anglican Bishop of Iran. Years later Margaret was asked how she managed to forgive Bahram’s murderers. She said, “It is just by the grace of God that you can forgive; I have not forgiven them once – forgiveness does not happen once and for ever. I have been forgiving them every day for more than twenty years, as God has forgiven me”. Most of us don’t have such a dramatic event that calls us to forgive but even small acts of forgiveness can be difficult. In worship and in our daily routines, how do we offer a place to “forgive those who sin against us”?

Prayer: God of liberation, we wonder at the capacity you have to set us free.

Throughout salvation history you have delivered your people from harm.

We hear this in the formative story of the people of Israel, how you were with them in their perilous journey through the sea and into the wilderness.

You are a might presence providing rescue from danger, water and nourishment in the desert.

We know you are always with us.

We see the power of your mercy that can change the hearts of the harshest of people.

We praise you that we never need to be chained to things that harm us.

As companions of the Spirit of love we become strong in the ways of restoration and reconciliation.

For all of this and for all that you are, we praise and adore you. Amen

P Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations.
 Please **Prayers** This week we **Pray for....** Heather & Norman, Simon & Allyson, Ray & Bill, Dal & Geoff, Kristie and Brooklyn.

....those receiving or recovering from medical treatment – Carl, Len, Rev Nathan, Kate, Debbie, Ray, Stephen’s father, Ruth, Kevin, Angus, Megan, Esther, Margaret, Pastor Jeff, Lynne H and David Meeks.

A Prayer for Comfort and Healing: Lord Jesus, heal me in whatever You see needs healing. Heal me of whatever might separate me from You. Heal my memory, heal my heart, heal my emotions, heal my spirit, heal my body, heal my soul. Lay Your hands gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen

....our Church Members who are unable to return to Worship in our Churches just yet.

....**safety for the many workers in the sugar industry** as the crushing season proceeds.

....**commonsense amongst members of our communities.** Pray that they take notice of the COVID-19 regulations in our country.

....the Leaders of our Country as they make decisions in these uncertain times.

....the safety of medical staff across the world as they provide medical treatment for those who have been in contact with the coronavirus and other diseases.

....the people of Victoria as they cope with the severe restrictions, those who have contracted COVID-19, for those who are recovering and for those who have lost loved ones.

....**all who work in frontline services:** Hospitals, Schools, Residential Care, Emergency Services, Counsellors and our Community Services.

....**Ian and Lynn** in their missionary work. Pray for their health and that of their co-workers as COVID-19 causes them a great deal of concern.

....**Parish Elders** - Bruce, Beth, Morelle, Sam, Colleen and Lyn.

....members of our Parish who are travelling and those who are attending the CQ Presbytery Meeting this weekend either via zoom or physically in Rockhampton.

....**individuals and families** who are feeling stressed, sad and lonely, the homeless and for those who have lost their jobs.

....**individuals, families** to come to know the Lord and join our members in Worship as soon as we are all able.

....**an abundance of finances for our Parish.**

....**members of our Church Council and Property Committee.**

....**safety in the workplace.**

....**Reach Out Activities.**

....**those who are being affected by the violence in our community, in our nation and all over the World.**

....the members of **Local, State and Federal Governments.**

....**Scripture Union Queensland, Bible Society, Frontier Services and School Chaplaincy.**



....**Pastor Allen Soxsmith, Moderator – Rev David Baker, Rev Suzy Sitton** who is the Interim CQ Presbytery Minister and for **Rev Scott Ballment** as he prepares to be inducted as the CQ Presbytery Minister.

....**for retired ministers** who are doing supply ministry and for the **lay people** who are working to keep Parishes functioning.

....**for our families and friends** and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

....**for Teachers, RI Instructors, School Chaplains** and all those who work with children.

....**for** the many blessings we receive in our daily lives.

....**for** the joy children and grandchildren bring to our families.

A Little Humour: Reasons why you should join a church choir:

- If you want to see if the pastor has notes or has memorised his sermon.
- If you want to make sure you always have a seat in an overcrowded church.
- Because the offering plate is never passed in the choir loft.
- Because choir robes are flattering for every body type.
- Because you can always watch the big clock at the back.

"From The Big Book of Church Jokes, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.:

Monday Morning Prayer with Moderator Rev David Baker: Loving God, as we live in uncertain and trying days, ground us in the life of your son, open our hearts to one another in grace and forbearance. Amen

Beth Higham (16th)

Marion Crouther (19th)

Amanda Noy (19th)



September Income \$1254.00

September Expenditure \$2945.00



Bible Study



**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY GROUP at the
Mirani Medical Centre, 42 Victoria Street, Mirani
6pm - Tuesday**

**You are also welcome to login via Zoom
Zoom login number is: 858 155 77576**

Please phone Simon (07 4959 1140) each Tuesday to ensure the Bible Study is meeting.

Bible Verse: God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Mottos for Success: Maintaining an open line of communication with others when all is going well will make it easier for them to accept constructive criticism or even reproof when it's needed.

S.H.I.N.E – (Seeking Him In Everything) For the youth and young at heart

Call to Worship: Jesus told his disciples that it was of the utmost importance that they learned to forgive fully and freely, but real forgiveness is not easy for human beings. Let us consider those whom we need to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Jesus, sometimes other people hurt me so badly that they forfeit my forgiveness.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I want to forgive and forget, but I can't.
Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I fail to see my own part in problems that arise.
Lord, have mercy.

Story: Jews were expected to forgive an offence three times. Peter went much further than this and offered to forgive seven times. But Jesus told his disciples that they needed to forgive always and utterly. This is because a lack of forgiveness leaves a hardness in the human heart which is difficult for God to penetrate. When we forgive other people we open ourselves to God and all his blessings, so in forgiving others we help ourselves.

In this story, Prettybush the squirrel falls out with her brother Bushman and finds it hard to forgive him.

Prettybush And The Ugly Place - Prettybush clung to her brother Bushman. They only had each other now. Their parents had both died in a grey squirrel cull by the local authorities. Prettybush didn't know what a cull was, but her brother had soon enlightened her.

"It's when important human beings decide there are too many of us squirrels so they kill us. Either by shooting us or by poison. Mum and Dad copped the poison."

Prettybush gave a strangled sob and flung herself into her brother's arms. She couldn't bear to think of her dear parents dying and especially couldn't bear to think of them being deliberately killed. For days after the death she followed her big brother around. She felt lost and lonely and frightened, but in exchange for Bushman's comfort she began to do for him the little things their mother had always done. She cooked and cleaned for him and made sure his wonderful bushy tail - which was his pride and joy - was always properly brushed and groomed.

Several weeks after the tragic death of their parents, Bushman began burying huge quantities of nuts in his personal underground store. Prettybush only discovered his activities when she followed him one day, still too upset to be on her own.

Bushman was furious. "Get away!" he snarled. "Can't you leave me alone? I don't want you trailing after me for the rest of my life! Clear off and get a life!"

Prettybush was deeply shocked and hurt. "I-I-I'm sorry! I didn't mean anything. What's the matter?" But in his anger her brother bared his teeth at her and drove her away.

Prettybush ran home with a heavy heart. She couldn't understand what she had done to make her brother so angry. But she too was angry at being treated in such a way. She packed her bags and set off, vowing never to see her brother again.

After many days wandering Prettybush met another lone squirrel. He smiled at her and offered to carry her bags. Prettybush was so overwhelmed with gratitude and delight at seeing another of her own kind that instantly she fell in love. Before long, Prettybush and Scamper had set up house together.

For years, Prettybush was happy, especially when she and Scamper produced baby squirrels of their own. But deep down inside her was a dark and ugly place. Whenever she thought about her brother Bushman, Prettybush's heart turned to stone and she was angry and upset all over again at the way he had treated her.

"I know what it was, now," she confided to Scamper. "He stole my parents' inheritance and threw me out when I chanced upon the theft. Half of those nuts should have been mine. Why should he have had it all?"

Scamper sighed. He'd heard the story many times before. "Look what we have," he replied. "Six wonderful children. A beautiful home, far away from your despicable brother. All the food we could possibly need. Don't you think it's time you forgave him?"

"I've tried!" sobbed Prettybush, "but I can't! Every time I remember that awful time, I'm flooded by hurt and anger and righteous indignation I can't get past it."

"Then perhaps we need to do something more positive. You've never been in contact with your brother from that day to this. Why don't we go and see him? We'll take the family."

Prettybush wasn't at all sure that she wanted to see her brother again. But she thought that perhaps Scamper was right. Maybe she should make the first move, for her brother had no idea where she was living. She nodded.

It was a long walk back to her home dray, especially for the young squirrels, but they made it into a holiday and took several days over it. When at last they arrived, Bushman came running out of his house to greet them.

The speeches Prettybush had been preparing in her head disappeared. She flung herself into Bushman's arms and they hugged and cried together.

"I'm so glad you've come back," said Bushman.

"So am I," murmured Prettybush. And she was, because suddenly the dark and ugly place deep inside her was flooded with a soft and gentle healing light and she knew that she was completely happy.

Blessing: May you be reconciled to those you once loved. May you forgive others Just as God has forgiven you. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now, be in your homes and in your families and with all those whom you love and for whom you pray, now and always. Amen.

	WALKERSTON		MIRANI	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>
13 th Sept	Kerith	Lyn	Thelma	Beth
20 th Sept	Kathryn	Lyn	Beth	Bruce
27 th Sept	Colleen	Lyn	Kerr Family	Margaret

Letter Changing Steps

To complete each step, change one letter of the current word to form a new word until you are able to form the related word on the bottom step.

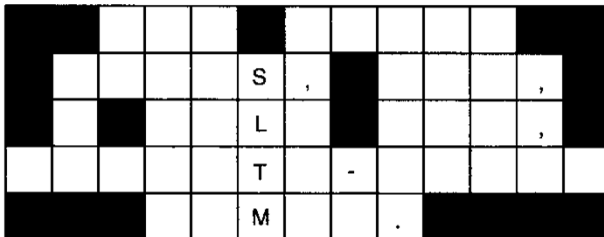
G o o d

N e e d

H e l p

Fallen Letter Puzzle

Place one letter from each column into the spaces above to rebuild the words.
The phrase is a verse in today's Gospel story, Matthew 18:21-35. One column has been done for you!



E E

O T ~~L~~ S U T

E V T E ~~E~~ V O N

T N T N ~~M~~ S E Y E V

S I I M I ~~I~~ Y S B E U E N

Service of Worship for Rev David Baker

A service
acknowledging
the end of term
of our current
Moderator, Rev
David Baker,
will be held on
Wednesday 16
September
2020 at
4.30pm.

Contact Details: P.O. BOX 152, WALKERSTON 4751

Website: www.pioneervalleyunitingchurch.org.au

Email: allensox42@gmail.com or glen.noy@bigpond.com



Minister: Pastor Allen Soxsmith

Phone Number: 07 4959 3974



8.00am Every Sunday

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

WALKERSTON



10.00am Every Sunday

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

MIRANI

EUNGELLA

20th September, 2020?

3.00pm

Holy Communion

ECDA Hall

EUNGELLA

Elders: Beth Higham 4958 3158: Morelle Coxwell 4959 1229: Bruce Kerr 4966 6924: Lynette Gargano 4951 4075: Colleen Brown 4954 5470: Sam Fernando 4959 3298

Electronic Banking Details

UCA Pioneer Valley – ANZ Bank - BSB: 014-010

Account No: 2115 57247

Containers for Change

ANYTHING ENVIRONMENTAL, 19 INTERLINK COURT, PAGET.

Parish's Registered Number **C10195946**

Alternatively, collect the cash and drop it into the offering plate.

Newsletter: Kerith Noy: 07 4959 2328: **email:** glen.noy@bigpond.com or P O Box 346, Walkerston Q 4751

Prayer Warrior: Vicki Kiem: Mob: 0408 767 331:

email: vakmoss@gmail.com

7.40am-7.55am – St Andrew's Vestry – Sundays

Lectionary Readings:

13th September, 2020 – Pentecost 15 – Exodus 14:19-32; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

20th September, 2020 – Pentecost 16 – Exodus 16:2-15: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

27th September, 2020 – Pentecost 17 - Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

4th October, 2020 – Pentecost 18 – Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philemon 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

CLi 386034

Letter Changing Steps: Good Gold Told Toed Teed Deed Need Heed Help
 Fallen Letter Puzzle: Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.