

PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ in Walkerston, Mirani, Eungella*



'The Window'

16th February, 2020

Welcome, we are glad you have joined us in Worship this morning. Please stay for morning tea following the Service.

Take a moment to read this week's devotional:

Ephesians 4:2-6 New International Version (NIV)

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Divided in Love – Leslie Koh

When public debate erupted over a controversial Singapore law, it divided believers with differing views. Some called others “arrow-minded” or accused them of compromising their faith.

Controversies can cause sharp divisions among God's family, bringing much hurt and discouraging people. I've been equally guilty of criticizing others I disagree with.”

I wonder if the problem lies not in what or even in how we express our views, but in the attitudes of our hearts when we do so. Are we just disagreeing with views or seeking to tear down the people behind them?

Yet there are times when we need to address false teaching or explain our stand. Ephesians reminds us to do so with humility, gentleness, patience, and love. And, above all else, to make every effort “to keep the unity of the Spirit” (v. 3).

Some controversies will remain unresolved. God’s Word, however, reminds us that our goal should always be to build up people’s faith, not tear them down (v.29 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen*). Are we putting others down to win an argument? Or are we allowing God to help us understand His truths in His time and His way remembering that we share one faith in one Lord? (vv.4-6)

How can you explain your stand on sensitive issues humbly, gently, and lovingly? What will you pray for those who seem to disagree?

Prayer: God, guide me as I speak the truth so that I do so out of love and seek only to build up, not to tear down.



Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations. Remember to uphold one another in prayer.

....Simon & Allyson, Robyn & Rob, Cathy & Paul, Ken & Colleen.

....**those receiving or recovering from medical treatment** – Carl, Richard, Len, Rev Nathan, Debbie, Ray, Irene, Stephen’s father, Linda, Patricia, Earl.

....**Ian and Lynn** in their missionary work.

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

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

....**new families** to join our Congregations.

....**Sara & Craig** as they prepare for the birth of their second child.

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

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

....**Friends, Family and Members of the Parish** who are travelling – Marie as she spends time with her daughters in Tasmania.

....**all the victims of the fires and more recently, the flooding.** Also pray for those who have lost loved ones during these disasters.

....**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.**

....for the **emergency services members** and for the **counsellors** who care for the communities in crisis and disaster situations.

....all who are experience the fury of natural disasters- especially those who are being affected by the devastating bushfires.

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

....**the Emerald UCA Community** as they prepare to host the March CQ Presbytery Meeting.

*give
thanks*
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

for....Pastor Allen Soxsmith, Moderator - Rev David Baker, our families and friends and for the **freedom** we take for granted in our Country.

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

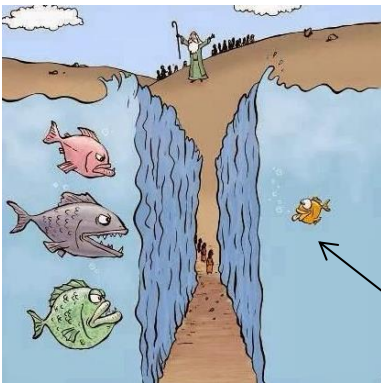
....**Lay Preachers** and **Retired Ministers** who give of their time and talents conducting Worship Services across the Mackay District.

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

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

....for the wonderful rain over the past few days.

A Little Humour: ☺



Mottos for Success: Not All of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great LOVE. Mother Teresa

Monday Morning Prayer with Moderator Rev David Baker: *Loving God, May Your spirit brood over our land; bring healing to the lives and communities devastated by fire, drought, and disruption; humble us to honour one another; help us to see you in our neighbour and fellow Australian.*

Herman catches a lucky break!

TODAY - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
THE VALLEY UCA
MIRANI – 11.30AM

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

Matthew 5:21-37

Murder - ²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’

²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.

²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’

³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’

³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne;

³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Children’s Story - Praxis Feels Angry - Praxis, the little pixie whose skin changes colour according to his moods, was a dull, ugly red. He was angry with his best friend, Liturgico, who had beaten him in the classroom and on the

sports field. Praxis was feeling grumpy because Liturgico was good at everything, and it just wasn't fair.

"I hate you," Praxis shouted. "Anyway, you cheat. That's how you always win." Liturgico was hurt. "I don't," he protested. "I can't help being better than you. You're a bad loser, Praxis."

Praxis had punched him then and made his nose bleed. He hadn't meant to hurt Liturgico, and he felt ashamed of himself, but he wasn't about to admit that to anybody.

"It's your own fault," he said sulkily. "You called me names."

After that, Praxis refused to have anything to do with Liturgico. Instead of sitting next to him in class, Praxis sat over the other side of the room. Instead of playing on the same side in football, Praxis played against Liturgico and made sure he gave him a good kick on the shins to make him howl. When the pixie children went out to play after school, Praxis wouldn't allow Liturgico to come anywhere near.

But Praxis' skin stayed that dull, angry red, because he wasn't very happy inside.

On the day of the Wise Old Pixie's birthday, Praxis was very excited. The Wise Old Pixie was the only other pixie to have skin that changed colour, although he was so old and so wise that his colours were almost always blended to pure white. Praxis had a special relationship with the Wise Old Pixie and had worked very hard on making a special present for the Wise Old Pixie. He had spent hours on it and had worked with great care. He was sure the Wise Old Pixie would love his gift.

Praxis had collected a number of fir cones, sprayed them all with silver and gold paint, stuck shiny sequins on some of them, and mounted them all on a wooden base that he had carved himself. It was a beautiful gift, made with love. Praxis was so proud of it that he planned to present it in front of everybody at the Wise Old Pixie's party.

The Wise Old Pixie's birthday party happened every year. All the pixies were invited, and it was held in the open air in the middle of the pixie glen. Everybody loved it, and the pixie children grew very excited when it was due. Nearly all the pixies made gifts for the Wise Old Pixie, but Praxis knew his would be the best of all, and he couldn't wait to present the gift.

First, there were all the pixie games. Praxis made sure he was well away from Liturgico, except in the game where he managed to trip Liturgico up, so that for once, Praxis won. Then there was the dancing in the fairy ring, which went on until every pixie was exhausted. After that came the tea, the biggest and best feast of the whole year. And then, just before everyone went home tired but full of happiness, came the presentation of gifts.

Praxis planned to wait until the end, so that his gift was last. As he imagined the oohs and aahs of admiration when the other pixies saw his gift, little spots of pink began to glow through his dull, angry red.

All went according to plan. Praxis was thrilled to see that no other gift was a good as his, not even Liturgico's gift. When all the other pixies had presented their offerings to the Wise Old Pixie, Praxis strutted to the middle of the glen. With a flourish he pulled his gift from behind his back and held it out to the Wise Old Pixie.

But the Wise Old Pixie didn't take it.

Praxis' face fell, and his skin began to turn blue. "Don't you like it?" he asked, his little pixie voice faltering.

A tear gathered in the corner of the Wise Old Pixie's eye. "It's a very handsome gift, Praxis," he murmured, "but I can't take it. I can only receive gifts of love."

"But -- but I don't understand. I do love you," Praxis stammered. "You know I do. I really love you, and I made this specially."

The Wise Old Pixie shook his head. "No, Praxis. You have anger in your heart, and you're keeping it there. That's why your skin has stayed that dreadful colour for so long. You must let go of your anger so that your heart can fill with love again."

He turned away, and Praxis crept back to his place with his head down. He turned purple with shame.

As all the pixies began to disperse to their own homes, Praxis felt a shy tap on his arm.

"Do you want to play football?" asked Liturgico.

Praxis put his arms round his old friend. "I'm so sorry, Liturgico. I don't hate you, I never have. I -- I think I've been jealous of you because you're so much better than me at everything. But I'm not going to be jealous any more, and I'm sorry that I've been so nasty to you. Can we be friends again?"

As he spoke, two remarkable things happened. Praxis' gift mysteriously appeared in the Wise Old Pixie's toadstool, and Praxis changed from a dull, angry red to a beautiful, healthy, shocking pink.

Olivia Gargano (16th)

Cody Stott (20th)

Sanea Peterson (21st)



12 years ago today, Josh & Lisa Beckmann (daughter of Betty & Trevor Froyland) were married in St Andrew's UCA by Rev Arthur Tutin following days of flooding rains. Happy Anniversary!!



Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed towards the wonderful gift for Sylvie. We very much appreciate your prayers and your overwhelming generosity. I look forward to bringing Sylvie up to visit with everyone in the months ahead. Thank you.

Amanda & Sylvie Noy

A Quick Prayer: Holy Lord, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WALKERSTON			MIRANI		
Date	Bible Reader	Prayers	Morning Tea	Bible Reader	Prayers
16 th Feb	Lyn	Lyn	Colleen W	Beth	Margaret
23 rd Feb	Kathryn	Lyn	Kristie	Kerr Family	Kerr Family
1 st Mar	Michelle	Lyn	Michelle	Thelma	Beth
9 th Mar	Kerith?	Lyn	Kerith?	Morelle	Margaret



March 2020
Pray for Zimbabwe

Date: **6th March, 2020**



RISE! Take Your Mat and Walk

Everyone is welcome to attend.
worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
ST MARY MAGDALENE
ANGLICAN CHURCH
McColl Street
WALKERSTON
Morning Tea 9.30am
Church Service 10.00am**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
THE VALLEY UCA
Victoria Street
MIRANI
Church Service 9.30am
Morning Tea to follow Service**

If you are able to take part in either of the above Services, please talk to Thelma at Mirani and Michelle at Walkerston

February Holy Communion Elements – Lyn Gargano

March Holy Communion Elements – Kerith Noy

We have had two deposits this month into the Parish Bank Account from the **Containers for Change Program**. Thank you to all who are donating the proceeds from their cans and bottles to our Parish.

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

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



Minister: Pastor Allen Soxsmith

Phone Number: 07 4959 3974



8.00am Every Sunday

8.20am Kids Time

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

WALKERSTON



10.00am Every Sunday

10.20am Kid's Time

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

MIRANI

EUNGELLA

16th February, 2020

3.00pm

Holy Communion

ECDA Hall

EUNGELLA

Worship Leaders

16th February, 2020 – Walkerston (HC) – Mirani (HC) – Pastor Allen Soxsmith

23rd February, 2020 – Walkerston – Mirani – Pastor Allen Soxsmith

1st March, 2020 – Walkerston (HC) – Mirani (HC) – Pastor Allen Soxsmith

8th March, 2020 – Walkerston – Mirani – Pastor Allen Soxsmith

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

Containers for Change

ANYTHING ENVIRONMENTAL, 19 INTERLINK COURT, PAGET.

Parish's Registered Number **C10195946**

Electronic Banking Details are as follows

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

Account No: 211557247. Please enter your surname **OR** Walkerston, Mirani or Eungella in the payment description

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:

9th February, 2020 – Epiphany 5 - Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12): Psalm 112:1-9 (10): 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16): Matthew 5:13-20

16th February, 2020 – Epiphany 6 - Deuteronomy 30:15-20: Psalm 119:1-8: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9: Matthew 5:21-37

23rd February, 2020 – Transfiguration of Jesus - Exodus 24:12-18: Psalm 2 or Psalm 99: 2 Peter 1:16-21: Matthew 17:1-9

CCLi 142833