

# PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

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



## 'The Window'

23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020

**Bible Reading: Matthew 16:13-20** New International Version

### **Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah**

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[d] loosed in heaven."

20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Discipleship Thought:** *The statue of St Peter in St Peter's Basilica has a club left foot. For centuries visitors filing past the statue have rubbed and kissed it to the point where the toes have almost disappeared. This tradition came from a time when pilgrims to Rome wanted to ensure that St Peter, who holds the keys to the kingdom of heaven, would use them to open the gates of heaven to any pilgrim who died on their journey home. Peter was given these keys because he*

*recognised who Jesus was and in doing so became the rock upon which the church was built. The keys to heaven are also given to us when we recognise the salvation that comes from living Christ's way, when we are guided by the Holy Spirit and open the gates to others. How are we doing?*

**Prayer:** God of wonder, what amazing gifts you place in our hands.

You hand us the keys to life, not life in the ordinary sense of the number of our days on earth, but life in all its fullness: life abounding with blessing, embedded in compassion and guided by the Spirit.

You teach us patience, kindness and humility.

You accompany us with peace, hope, joy and love.

You give us this wonderful earth to live on and experience.

We are always surprised by the beauty that is on display as everyday there is something new to marvel at.

We are blessed and we are thankful. Amen

**With Love to the World \$6 per copy. Please take one.**

**Prayers** Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations.  
**please** This week we **Pray for....** Bruce, Pian, Brooklyn and Bayla, Laurel & John, Ken & Colleen, Rod, Michelle and Families.

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

**A Prayer for Comfort and Healing:** Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. 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 as our country opens up after the pandemic.

**....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 increased 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 as COVID-19 causes them a great deal of concern and for people they know who have the virus.

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

....members of our Parish who are travelling.

....**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 become the CQ Presbytery Minister.

....**for retired ministers** who are doing supply ministry and for the **lay people** who are working to keep Parishes functioning, especially Rick & Noela who have willingly taken our Worship Service in recent weeks.

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

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

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

**A Little Humour:** “I don’t mind that the Deacon always has the last word,” the pastor said to his wife after the meeting. “It’s waiting for it that I don’t care for! That Deacon can say more in a look than I can in a sermon!”

**Monday Morning Prayer with Moderator Rev David Baker:** In the midst of everything that’s uncertain, ground us in your never-failing love and solidarity; that we may be at peace and be an island of peace for others.

**Fans, Lights and Circuit Board Test** \$2,000 - Donations to Date \$1,700. Thank you to all who have contributed.



Thelma Johnston (23<sup>rd</sup>)

Emmett Wallin (27<sup>th</sup>)

Margaret Harvey (28<sup>th</sup>)

Reuben Just (29<sup>th</sup>)

Allan & Unice Peterson (24<sup>th</sup>)

**August Income \$2732.50**

**August Expenditure \$2624.00**



**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:** Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.



Lyndie Davey has been in touch with Pastor Allen in regards to updates to the Safe Ministry with Children Course.

Those who have done the course are required to take part in a ZOOM MEETING PRESENTATION as soon as possible.

Would you kindly advise Pastor Allen as to which evening suits you to participate in this zoom meeting, to be held during the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

**Mottos for Success:** Life is one big common pot of experiences. Everyone has something unique to contribute. If you are wise, you can draw something valuable from that pot every day.

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

**Call to Worship:** Jesus saw the potential in Simon and renamed him Peter the Rock. Then Jesus promised to build his church on this rock. In our worship today let us offer ourselves and our potential to God for his use.

**Prayer:** Jesus, sometimes I denigrate myself because I feel inferior. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I denigrate myself because then less is expected of me. Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I denigrate myself because I'm lazy and don't want to make any effort. Lord, have mercy.

**Story:** Like Peter, we all have moments of startling insight from time to time and we all do really stupid things from time to time. We also all let ourselves and others down from time to time. Peter did all these things, yet Jesus spotted the potential in Peter at a very early stage and despite Peter's later failings, Jesus retained his faith in Peter as a rock on which the Church could safely be built.

**David's Moment Of Stupidity** - David was really happy. Jimmy, his favourite youth club leader was impressed with him, and that mattered to David. They'd all had a day out "Going Ape" in the forest. There were treetop walks, rope climbing nets, swinging through the trees on a harness, swinging from tree to tree on ropes and a host of other exciting activities.

David had taken part in them all high up in the tree tops, unlike some of the others who had freaked out at the last minute and resorted to walking the forest trails at ground level. David knew that Jimmy had been watching him closely.

"You did well there," remarked Jimmy. "You're strong and tough. Some of those courses were difficult and scary even for me, but I could see you were determined to make it. Well done."

David glowed with the praise. For once, he was really proud of himself. He might not be much good at academic stuff, but at least he could climb. He grinned at Jimmy.

Jimmy continued, "You have leadership potential, David. I see you working with me guiding the younger ones in maybe a couple of years. How do you fancy being a youth leader when you leave school?"

David's eyes shone and he nodded vigorously. He'd never thought of that and had supposed he'd drift into some dead-end job when he left school. He determined to fulfill Jimmy's confidence in him.

But next day, things went wrong. It was a Sunday, so there was - as usual - nothing for David and the gang to do. They mooched round the supermarket car park getting in people's ways with their skate boards, and had a shouting match with the security man.

When he threatened to call the police they retaliated with rude gestures and verbal abuse, but moved off.

By now they were all thoroughly disgruntled, bored and ready to liven things up.

"I know," suggested Dave. "Let's smoke in the church porch."

There was general agreement to this plan and they took it in turns to roll a spliff and share it. Before long they were all high, so when Tommy lunged against the church door with his shoulder and managed to force it open, they were all inside in seconds, smoking and laughing and fooling around.

David swung his arm through the neatly stacked row of hymn books, all of which fell onto the ground. The boys doubled up with laughter. Then, for some reason which he couldn't later fathom but because it seemed like fun at the time, David struck a match and dropped it into the pile of hymn books.

They caught alight immediately and the boys whooped and hollered in their delight. Then one of them caught hold of the fire extinguisher and sprayed the whole of the inside of the church with thick dust. The gang was ecstatic in their glee. After that they rambled through the church, destroying anything they could find. It only took half an hour.

Then they spilled out of the church still laughing and joking.

When the police arrived next day and arrested David, it didn't seem anything like so funny. When he saw the shame and horror on the faces of his parents and his neighbours, Dave felt sick. But he acted with bravado and made out he didn't care. It wasn't until he saw Jimmy that David crumbled. Then he realised how badly he had let himself and Jimmy down. Dave felt deeply ashamed and was full of remorse for his stupid actions.

Now he'd never be a youth leader. Now he'd have a criminal record and no-one would consider him for work with young people. Now there was no future but the dead-end job. David could have cried.

But to his astonishment, Jimmy supported him. Jimmy told David exactly what he thought of him and it wasn't complimentary, but then he stood with him while the police interviewed him and spoke out for him in court. David could hardly believe his ears when Jimmy stood up to give him a character reference. Because of Jimmy's support, David escaped with a caution and an order to put right all the damage he'd caused. He willingly agreed.

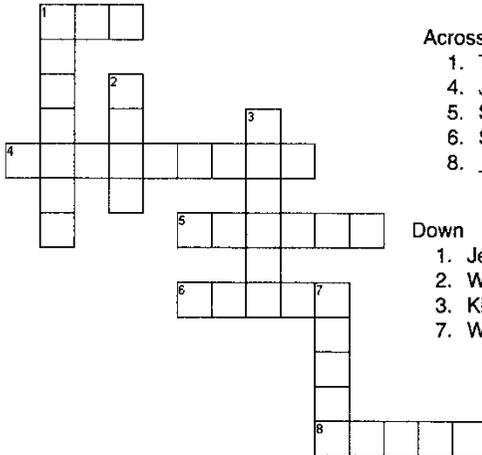
"I'll never let you down again," he promised Jimmy. "I can't believe you still think I'm worth something. I'll really try. I want to be a youth worker with you and I'll work for it from now on."

And he did.

**Blessing:** May you know that you are terrific, because God himself is besotted with you. And may you live up to his faith in 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.

### Crossword Puzzle

Complete this crossword puzzle using the clues from today's Gospel story.  
Read the clues. Then fill in the squares below with the answers to the questions.



#### Across

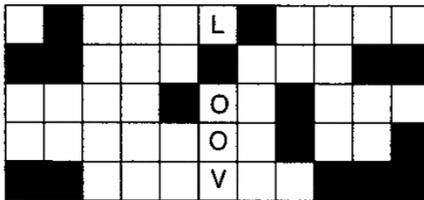
1. The son of \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jesus ordered them not to tell
5. Son of the \_\_\_\_\_ God
6. Simon son of \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter

#### Down

1. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where Jesus built the church
3. Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_
7. Will not prevail against the church

### 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 16:13-20. One column has been done for you!



Y G  
W O A X T E  
K N I U X E H I F  
K I Y S D Ø F N T H E  
I E H E L Ø M G O V E

	WALKERSTON		MIRANI	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Kerith	Lyn	Morelle	Beth
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Neil	Lyn	Margaret	Morelle
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Michelle	Lyn	Bruce	Margaret

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

**Website: [www.pioneervalleyunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.pioneervalleyunitingchurch.org.au)**

**Email: [allensox42@gmail.com](mailto:allensox42@gmail.com) or [glen.noy@bigpond.com](mailto: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**

**20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:glen.noy@bigpond.com) or P O Box 346, Walkerston Q 4751

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

**email:** [vakmoss@gmail.com](mailto:vakmoss@gmail.com)

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

### **Lectionary Readings:**

**16<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 – Pentecost 11** – Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020 – Pentecost 12** – Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

**30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 – Pentecost 13** – Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

**6<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 - Pentecost 14** – Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**13<sup>th</sup> 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 **CCLi 386034**

**Fallen Letter Puzzle:** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Rock 3; Heaven 7; Hades

**Crossword Puzzle:** Across – 1. Man 4. Disciples 5. Living 6. Jonah 8. Simon Down – 1. Messiah 2.