

PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

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



“The Window”

28th February, 2021

28th February, 2021 – St Andrew's UCA – Rick Thomson

The Valley UCA – Pastor Allen



A UnitingWorld Story: Emily was a mum of two girls, 8-year-old Anna and 10-year-old Sophie. They were planning a wonderful summer holiday, going on a cruise through the Pacific Islands. Emily was very much aware that her girls, raised in middle class suburban Sydney, had no real idea of what poverty was. She was keen for them to understand some of the realities of the wider world, understand some of their privilege and to feel compassion for those not as well off as they were.

Emily struck upon the idea of using the cruise ship stop in Fiji to visit a local school with her girls. Because she wanted to teach her girls to be generous, she helped the girls do a bake sale at their church to raise money, so the girls could buy stationary supplies to take as gifts when they visited the school.

They approached UnitingWorld to ask to be introduced to a school in Fiji, so they could visit and give the gifts.

Clearly Emily's motivations are good, and she is acting with conscience and compassion. Her desire to teach her children to value their privilege and care for the poor is great parenting.

However, she made decisions on what to do without asking the people she wanted to help. Emily didn't think to give them a chance to decide for themselves what they needed or how they want to connect with people from Australia.

The children risk learning that those in poorer countries can be treated as the objects of generosity and that the only real thing about them is their poverty. Because we are rich, we can decide what they need and give it to them.

The juxtaposition of a cruise holiday—with its endless food and entertainment—with a visit to a Fijian school where they hand out some stationary, can teach children a dangerous lesson about what is fair.

Does it imply that we 'deserve' a cruise, and that others must be satisfied with token gifts from strangers?

We suggested to Emily that the most important lesson her children could learn was that Fijian children were in fact just like them.

We recommended she take her children to the playgrounds where local children were playing and encourage them join in kicking a ball around. We suggested that if they had time, they might visit a school and ask to be shown around some classrooms.

We talked about how Sophie and Anna might feel if some foreign children showed up at their school and handed out unsolicited gifts to some of the children.

We talked about the role that church schools play in providing education to the children of poor and vulnerable communities, and how they might ask how to make a contribution that could be used by the schools to address their greatest needs.

Mark 8:31-38 - Jesus Predicts His Death

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Discipleship Thought: Setting Your Mind

Peter, the rock, gets it all wrong again – at least in part. Peter hears Jesus' teaching about what is to come, and it appears he believes Jesus is telling the truth, it's just that he doesn't want that to be the way things turn out. He has set his mind on the safety and security of his friendship; he has set his mind on having a 'victory' in the way he imagined it. In Jesus, Peter has met the Messiah, he knows this. The trouble is his definition of what the Messiah is supposed to do. Perhaps he wants a triumphant and powerful Christ, not one who is humble and chooses love over violence. There are times in the life of the church when we fail to recognise the Messiah we have and join with Peter in the one we might have hoped for. At those times, we too stand with Peter in setting our minds on the wrong things.

Prayer: Loving God, Words cannot convey the depths of our praise.

In you we have found freedom and love, our home, which makes us complete.

You have blessed us and called us your own.

We give thanks for your life in all the earth and celebrate with all your creatures the wonder of your works.

May our thanksgiving turn to praise, and our praise turn to new living that we might truly honour you with our whole lives that in our living and our dying, we might be one with you.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Words for Worship 28th February, 2021

P Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations. **Prayers** This week we **Pray for....** Peter & Margaret, Gwen, Deborah, Len, **please** Margaret and Christopher.

....those receiving or recovering from medical treatment – Carl, Debbie, Stephen, Stephen's father, Bill, Angus, Ken, Ruth, Kevin, Heather & Norman.

....our friends, relatives and acquaintances who have health issues that require them to be hypervigilant in this time of COVID-19.

A Prayer for Comfort and Healing: God, I pray for healing and comfort for anyone dealing with heartache and illness. I pray that they find refuge in You in the midst of their pain. May You continue to give them the strength to keep going. To push through these dark moments and know You are with them every step of the way. Amen

....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.

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

....for those taking part in the **World Day of Prayer Services** on **5th March**.

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

....**members of our Parish and all people** 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, Property Committee and Elders**.

....**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**.



....**for Pastor Allen Soxsmith, Moderator – Rev Andrew Gunton, CQ Presbytery Minister - Rev Scott Ballment**.

....**for retired ministers** who are doing supply ministry and for the **lay people** who willing give of their time conducting Worship Services.

....**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. May they return refreshed and ready for school next week.

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

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

....**for** the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions in some areas and pray for continued vigilance so that the disease does not spread further.

CQ PRESBYTERY PRC Representatives will be in the Parish over the weekend of 27th/28th March. These representatives wish to meet with ALL MEMBERS of the Eungella, Valley and St Andrew's Congregations to discuss the future of the Pioneer Valley Parish. Please keep this weekend free so that you can attend. Exact times will be advertised as soon as they are known.

A Little Humour: "That was a really long sermon today, Pastor," an Elder commented after the service.

"Well, the clock on the back wall quit working, so I didn't realise how much time I was taking!" replied the Pastor.

"But there was a calendar back there!" replied the Elder.

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

Mottos for Success: A truly wise man will value humility and the counsel of others.

Monday Morning Prayer with Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton: God of all wisdom, help us today to take the time and make the space for Your voice to be heard amidst the noise of the world around us. Amen

Dianne Hobbs (28th)

Montana Wicks (6th)



Len & Margaret Hall (2nd)

A Quick Prayer: Whether or not I am seeing the rewards You promised, Lord, I know You provide good things for me. Help me to seek You in faith for all my needs. Amen



From Jenny McFarlane:

Mum (Ann Creber) turned 80 recently. The whole family spent the Valentine's Day Weekend celebrating at the Sarina Beach Motel. Lots of fun, memories made and remembered.

We all had a great time just being together.

We wish you God's Blessings and Congratulations on your 80th Ann.



February Income \$4,217.15

February Expenditure \$4,613.71

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 9.30am - St Andrew's UCA, Walkerston



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 9.30am – St Francis de Sales Catholic Church – Finch Hatton



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

"Have you seen it?" whispered the Barbie doll to her next door neighbour.

The next Barbie doll in line was instantly alert. There were five different Barbie dolls, who lived jumbled together in the toy cupboard but who were so jealous of each other that they rarely spoke. "Seen what?" asked the second Barbie doll, blue eyes darting all round the room.

"The Princess," replied the first Barbie with glee. "Caitlin's done her hair and it looks terrible!"

Barbie Two didn't wait to find out for herself what had happened to the Princess. More than they hated each other, all the Barbies hated the Princess, for she was Caitlin's favourite and was always dressed in the best clothes. And while the rest of the Barbies spent most of their time languishing in the toy cupboard, Caitlin always took out the Princess and played with her.

Barbie Two turned to Barbie Three and whispered with delight, "The Princess looks a real sight! You should see her!"

Barbie Three's eyes gleamed. She nudged Barbie Four with a rather savage dig in the ribs. Barbie Four reacted angrily, but before she could say anything Barbie Three was whispering, "That stuck-up Princess! She's been taken down a peg or two. She's such a mess!"

Barbie Four chortled. For the first time in her life she spoke to Barbie Five. Barbie Five was the oldest of the Barbie dolls, with joints that creaked and hair which was rather thin and straggly. All the others ignored her because she was old and battered, so it was quite a surprise when Barbie Four spoke to her. "That Princess! She looks hideous!" Barbie Five felt rather sorry for the Princess. She had a pretty good idea what would happen to her, because when she herself had been new, Caitlin had played with her all the time, loving her and dressing her in pretty clothes and combing her hair. But her hair had kept getting tangled, and after one disastrous hairdressing session Caitlin had torn out some of her hair and flung her into the toy cupboard. A new Barbie had appeared shortly after that, and Barbie Five had rarely been out of the cupboard since.

Despite their jealousy of the Princess, the Barbie dolls were a little in awe of her. It wasn't only that she was so well dressed. She had a regal air, and all the others privately thought that perhaps she really was a princess. And besides, although

she was occasionally thrown into the toy cupboard with them, she was often sat neatly next to Ken in two little deck chairs which were just the right size for them. Ken was so handsome that all the dolls thought he was probably a prince. To the huge disappointment of the other Barbies, when Caitlin brought the Princess in, she didn't sling her into the toy cupboard but sat her gently next to Ken in the deck chair. Her hair did look rather funny, but she was clearly still the favourite. The Barbies thought they'd better be pleasant. None of them wanted to be out of favour with the Princess or Ken.

"I love your new hair style!" cried Barbies One Two Three and Four, smiling at the princess and trying to inch nearer to Ken.

Barbie Five couldn't believe her ears after all the nasty things she'd heard the other four say. She also wanted to be in favour with the Princess, but she thought it was important that the Princess knew what might happen to her. Barbie Five looked at the Princess and said to her, "I think you need to be careful. You may be nearing the end of your active life. But I'll do my best to look after you if you find yourself thrown into the toy cupboard. It's not such a bad existence, I've grown to enjoy it myself."

The princess tossed her hair and turned her back on Barbie Five. "I shall never sink to your level," she replied unkindly.

Barbie Five didn't say any more. She felt hurt by the princess' reaction, but she knew she'd done the right thing by speaking the truth. Barbie Five always spoke the truth, even though none of the other dolls wanted to hear it.

As Caitlin slowly grew up, both the Princess and Ken were thrown into the toy cupboard. The argument and squabbling and jealousy amongst the dolls grew worse and worse, and they were all unhappy with their lives. All except one, that is. Barbie Five discovered she was quite contented with her lot, and strange to say, as the other Barbies grew older and older and more and more ugly, Barbie Five seemed to grow softer and more beautiful.

When at last the toy cupboard was cleared out and all the toys were packed into boxes to go to the jumble sale, Caitlin picked up Barbie Five and hugged her. "You were my very first Barbie," she murmured, "and you're the nicest of the lot. I'm going to keep you forever, and when I have a little girl I shall give you to her. You will be her very first toy."

And that was exactly what happened.

	WALKERSTON		MIRANI	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Bible Reader</i>	<i>Prayers</i>
28 th Feb	Kerith	Lyn	Morelle	Margaret
7 th Mar	Colleen	Lyn	Thelma	Morelle
14 th Mar	Neil	Lyn	Margaret	Beth

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

St Andrew's UCA

Bold Street

WALKERSTON



10.00am Every Sunday

The Valley UCA

Victoria St

MIRANI

EUNGELLA

TBA

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

Funeral Notices - This website www.mackayfuneralnotices.com.au may be of use to anyone who is looking for local funeral notices.

Containers for Change

ANYTHING ENVIRONMENTAL, 19 INTERLINK COURT, PAGET.

Parish 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:

28th February, 2021 – Lent 2 - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

7th March, 2021 – Lent 3 – Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;

John 2:13-22

14th March, 2021 – Lent 4 - Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians

2:1-10; John 3:14-21

21st March, 2021 - Lent 5 - Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or

Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

25th March, 2021 - Annunciation of the Lord - Isaiah 7:10-14; - Psalm 45 or

Psalm 40:5-10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

28th March, 2021- Palm Sunday – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Phil

2:5-11; Mark 14:1-11 or John 12:12-16

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