

# PIONEER VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES

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



## *'The Window'*

### *30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020*

**Bible Reading: Matthew 16:21-28 NIV**

#### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

25 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

28 "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**Discipleship Thought:** *In his book, The Sign of the Cross: the Gesture, the Mystery, the History, theologian Andreas Andreopoulos describes how his grandfather, a Greek Orthodox priest, taught him to make the sign of the cross and how, over time, Andreopoulos came to understand this act as an act of “taking the cross inside” – of embracing and internalising the life of Jesus and becoming one with Christ for all time while living here and now. Over the centuries this symbol has been lost somewhat to the Protestant tradition. What signs from our tradition mark us as followers of Christ? What does our embodiment of the living Christ look like? Is our call to not just take up the cross but to take it on and in?*

**Prayer:** People of God, let us give thanks.

We praise you, loving God, for all your acts of grace and mercy.

We praise you in song, loud in our praise.

May our music express our wonder and gratitude at all that you are and all that you have done.

In every moment, we would pay attention to all that is around us –

Alert to the signs of your presence, O God, watching for signs of your work.

The world is full of your wonderful creativity, everyday miracles and marvelous achievements.

God is with us.

God's covenant is sure.

God's promises are steadfast and so we would ever praise you. Amen

**Prayers** Each week during Worship we pray for families from our congregations.  
 please This week we **Pray for....**Unice, Allan, Sanea, Alinice and Cedric, Olive, Kathryn, Greg and Families, Marie.

**....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.



**....the McKay Family as they mourn the passing of their much loved, Thirza 'JUNE' McKay.** June passed away last Sunday and was farewelled at a very moving family service held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August at the Albany Creek Memorial Park Lakeview Chapel. Pray for John and their children, Mark dec'd, Tim, Jane, Robin, Andrew, Kate and Paul, their families, extended families

and friends. The McKay Family and in particular John & June, have been valued members and great supporters of the Pioneer Valley Parish for many, many years and even though they retired to Barton a few years ago, John and June were never far from our thoughts and we are grateful to Beth for keeping us up to date with news about this very special couple. June was a loyal and loving wife and an exceptional mother to their children. Apparently in John's wedding speech, he said that he 'planned to populate the north', and that they did as together they raised seven children, all of whom they are very proud. June taught Religious Instruction at Walkerston State School, was a very active member of St Andrew's Congregation and the Women's Fellowship. Whenever there was a function to be organised, catered for and held, June was there. Rest In Peace June. You will be greatly missed.

....**Beth & John** and their family as they mourn the passing of their much loved sister-in-law and aunt, June McKay.

....**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 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 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 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 the life of a wonderful Christian Woman, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great grandmother and Friend, June McKay.

....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:** After church, a little girl sat outside the building crying. When her older brother came out the door and noticed her in tears, he asked her what was wrong.

“The pastor talked about the sin of vanity today.” She sniffled. “I’ve been sinning a lot – every day I look in the mirror and tell myself how pretty I am.”

“Oh that’s not a sin,” the brother responded. “That’s a mistake!”

**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.



Heather McLean (today)

Benjamin Wilks (today)

Myer Noy (today)

Alyson Turner (today)

Drew & Katrina McGilchrist (30<sup>th</sup>)



**August Income \$3970.50**

**August Expenditure \$2804.00**





**The Valley Congregation Left to Right – Len & Margaret, Bruce (hiding), Thelma (birthday girl), Brooklyn, Val, Stephanie & Earl, Eli, Grace, Margaret, Morelle and Ewan, Angus, Beth and Dianne in front. Thank to Pastor Allen for the photo.**

## 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.

**A Quick Prayer:** Remind me of Your blessings that have little to do with wealth: love, peace, good health, and the work of the Spirit in my life. Remind me, Lord, of the great cost of my salvation, and let me praise You forever.



Thank you to the eleven members of the parish who attended the Zoom Meeting on Wednesday evening with Lynde Davy and thank you to Lynde for giving up her 'home time'

to get us up to date with the latest rules and regulations in regards to Safe Ministry with Children.

**Mottos for Success:** You can either do something about a problem or you can't, but either way, worrying won't help. Channel your energy into finding a solution, if one is to be found, or into other things that *are* within your control.

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

**Call to Worship:** When Peter tried to interfere with his dangerous choice, Jesus spoke harshly to him. In our worship today, let us explore those times when we try to interfere with other people's choices, because we believe that we are acting in their best interests.

**Prayer:** Jesus, sometimes I try to stop other people because I'm anxious for myself. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I try to stop other people because I'm jealous of them. Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, sometimes I try to stop other people because I think I know what is best for them. Lord, have mercy.

**Story:** Peter tried to stop Jesus because he was anxious for himself. He knew that if they went to Jerusalem they would be walking headlong into trouble and possibly death, and he didn't want to face it. Jesus turned on him because Jesus knew what had to be faced and needed support in his chosen course of action.

In this story, Mel needs to break the rules, but Heather is horrified and tries to stop her. Heather is anxious for herself and is unaware of the whole picture.

**Mel's Trouble** - As soon as Mel got into school, she thought that something was different. She had a feeling that something was wrong, although she had no idea what that might be. But she was worried and distracted.

"Come on, Mel!" urged her best friend Heather, at the end of break. "It's Drama next and if we hurry we'll get a seat near the stage."

But Mel was still uneasy. For some reason which she was unable to identify, she didn't want to go back into school. She hung back and dawdled until Heather lost patience with her. Heather grabbed hold of Mel's arm and propelled her into school.

Then, just before they reached the hall where the Drama class was to take place, Mel spotted a fire alarm. In an instant, she knew what she had to do.

"Quick! Give me your shoe! I'm going to set off the fire alarm."

Heather was horrified. She'd never seen her friend like this before. "Mel! You can't! You'll be expelled or something!" Heather stood squarely in front of the fire alarm and spread her arms out. "I won't let you!"

But Mel snapped, "Get out of my way! There isn't time for this!" and gave Heather a shove which sent her sprawling. In a moment Mel had whipped off her own shoe and hammered at the glass. When it shattered, she pressed the fire alarm button

as strongly as she could. As the piercing sound of the fire bell echoed through the corridors, children began to pour out of every classroom, chattering and giggling. Heather had regained some of her composure, but she still had a very worried expression on her face. She hated trouble, and this looked as if it would be trouble with a capital "T". She clutched at Mel's arm and dragged her back into the playground, where they quickly lined up with the rest of their class.

They were outside for what seemed like hours. All the children cheered as they saw two fire engines arrive, but Heather felt sick when she spotted that the fire engines were followed by a police car. Then the children were sent home and told to come back to school next day.

Heather hardly slept that night for fear of what would happen next day. She wondered whether she could call in sick, but knew her mother would never allow it. Then she wondered whether she could say that it was all Mel's idea (which was true). But finally she decided that she would have to stick by Mel. Because that was what best friends were for.

Immediately they arrived, the whole school assembled in the hall. The Head asked quietly, "Who set off the fire alarm yesterday?" Heather gulped and prepared to stand up with her friend.

But Mel was already on her feet and saying, "I did, Sir." It seemed like the whole school held its breath, but to Heather's amazement the Head was smiling and called Mel up onto the platform.

"Well done, Mel," he said. "Your quick action averted a potential tragedy. There was a small fire in the science block, but thank goodness, nobody was in there and nobody was injured. But tell me, how did you know? The fire had only just started when the fire brigade arrived."

Mel grinned. "I just kind of knew, Sir," she said. "I knew something was wrong and then I smelled it. Just a whiff, but I guess it was because I was looking out for something. Heather helped me," she added generously.

Heather grinned too. She was so glad to be best friends with Mel and she was so glad Mel had taken no notice of her yesterday.

**Blessing:** May you have the strength to bear criticism and the courage to always be honest. And may 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>
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Neil	Lyn	Margaret	Morelle
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Michelle	Lyn	Bruce	Margaret
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Kerith	Lyn	Thelma	Beth

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**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:**

**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

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

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

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