

**NUMBERS 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**JOHN 3:14-21**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."



# Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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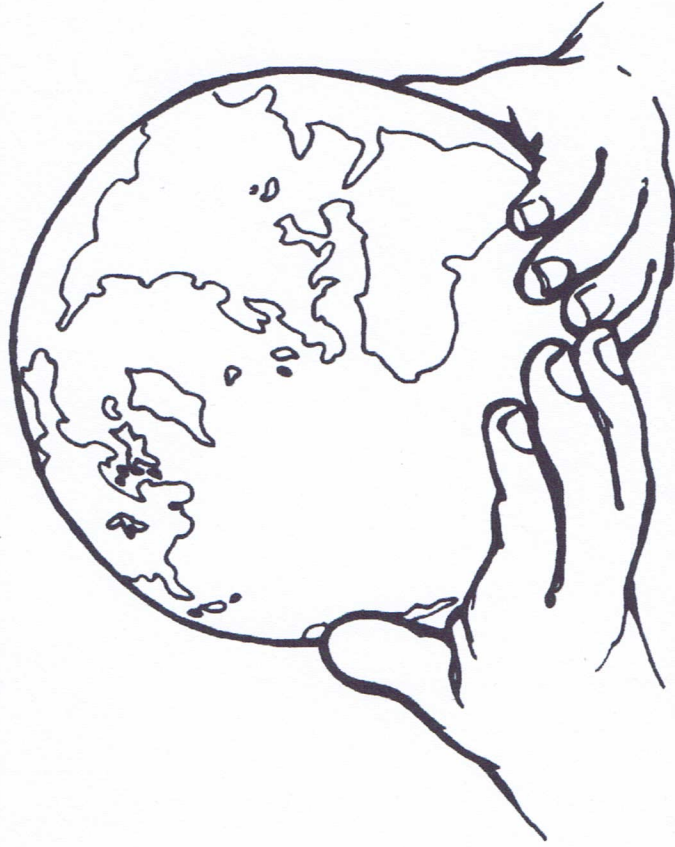
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*'Creating a caring, nurturing community'*



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SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024



### Morning Worship: Roster

	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Leader</b>	Rev Jean Shannon	Rev Jean Shannon
<b>Music</b>	Rosemary Akesson	Elizabeth Prosser
<b>Entry of Bible</b>	Ailsa Liffman	Iris Ballard
<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	Joan Lovett	Ailsa Liffman
<b>Stewards</b>	Joan & Royce Lovett	Anne Olinsky Ailsa Liffman
<b>Reader</b>	Iris Ballard	Joan Winwood
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>	Ailsa Liffman	Iris Ballard
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Robin & Bob Unger	Meryll Davey & Robyn Herdegen
<b>Projection</b>	Jeff Haynes	Tony Olinsky
<b>Flowers</b>		
<b>Lectionary</b>	Numbers 21: 4-9 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33

### Regular Activities

**Morning Worship:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday/month: - 10am  
**Holy Communion:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham  
**Imlay House Service:** 2:00pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month - helpers would be appreciated - see Rev Jean.  
**Tura Beach Op Shop:** Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.  
**Uniting Church Tai Chi 108:** Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley  
**Uniting Church Dance Group:** Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and Friday mornings at 9 am Contact Pam Jordan 0475 191 923 for details.  
**'Blokes United' Coffee Morning** - 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month - 10am at MorMors  
**Church Bring-and-Share Brunch** - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday/month (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec.)

Birthdays this coming week:  
 Carole Criddle - 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Anne Olinsky - 15<sup>th</sup>



For those who would like to make their offering anonymously via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for Giving Direct are: **Acc Name** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church **BSB** 634-634 **Acc No** 100037934

Checkout our website: [merimbulainitingchurch.com.au](http://merimbulainitingchurch.com.au)  
 Find us on Facebook @ Sapphire Coast Uniting Church



Thank you to all those who contributed food and labour for our church brunch last Sunday. It was a very happy occasion, and as usual, plenty delicious food. Mark your diary for our next **Bring-and-Share Brunch** on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Next Men's Coffee morning: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

It is increasingly unlikely that we will be able to secure a ministry agent to cover the period of Rev Jean's coming leave (April, May, June). The majority of these services will therefore need to be led internally, and it is doubtful we will be able to hold our regular communion services during this time.



We will need support and assistance from the congregation during this period, but our worship will continue. Let's step up, not step away!

**DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT**  
 John speaks about how light has come into the world, and yet people loved darkness rather than light. Why do we refuse life? Why do we do evil and hate the light? What are we frightened of? Part of being human is the genuine desire only to present our most shiny versions. But we are all a mix. John knows this. Jesus knows this. You and I know this. And yet, none of us want to show our dirt. Our struggles. Our wrongdoing and failures. Our poverty. Our shadow. We fear that no one could love the whole mix. So, we hide. We pretend. And the shadowy parts within us have even more of a field day. What is it that might save us? It's always love - a love that embraces us, just as we are, without a hint of condemnation. That's the love that Jesus embraces us with. This is the freely given love that God has for the whole world. This is the love that liberates us. This is the love that heals us and makes us whole.