

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 (11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

JOHN 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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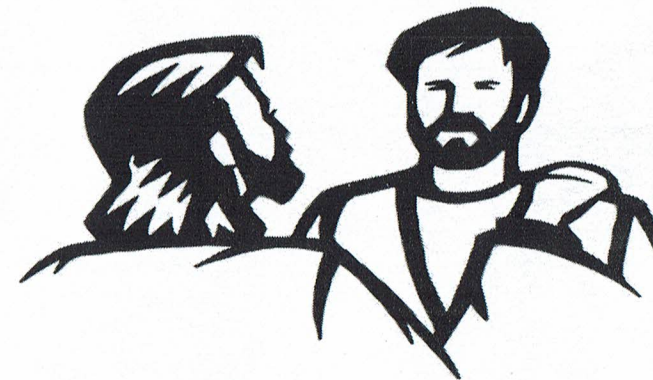
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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'

Rev. Jean Shannon

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Follow Me.

John 1:43

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024



Morning Worship: Roster

| | 14 th January 2024 | 21 st January 2024 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Leader | Rev Jean Shannon | Rev Jean Shannon |
| Music | Rosemary Akesson | Rosemary Akesson |
| Entry of Bible | Iris Ballard | Tony Olinsky |
| Acknowledgement of Country | Joan Winwood | Geoff Burton |
| Stewards | Joan & Royce Lovett | Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey |
| Reader | Julie Russell | Iris Ballard |
| Pastoral Prayer | Iris Ballard | Corinne Nicolson |
| Morning Tea | Anne & Tony Olinsky | Robyn Herdegen & ailsa Liffman |
| Projection | Tony Olinsky | Geoff Burton |
| Flowers | Robyn Herdegen | Ailsa Liffman |
| Lectionary | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10(11-20) 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51 | Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20 |

Regular Activities

Morning Worship: 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am

Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham

Imlay House Service: 2:00pm, 3rd 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 John Tanner: 0428 957 165 for details.

Blokes United' Coffee Morning - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday each month - 10am at MorMors

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch - 1st Sunday/month (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec.)



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: merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au

Note: Masks are no longer compulsory, but remain advisable.

We are starting a fortnightly 'coffee' group for any of our menfolk who would like to attend. **Blokes United** will meet every 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday, 10am at MorMors in central Merimbula. Hope to see you there this Wednesday, 17th January!

Thursday morning Tai Chi classes will recommence on Thursday 1st February at 10:00am. Speak to Shirley McLennan for further information.

The **Take Your Brain Dancing** group led by Wendy & Peter Colhoun will be running new classes for beginners in our church hall, commencing Wednesday 31st January. If you are interested in learning some New Vogue dances, call Wendy on 0412997769 for further details.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Jesus' presence in this passage is so warm, so affirming, and knowing. When we see Jesus seeing us, we begin to see everything differently. We are held as those seen, known, and loved. We see the world through the eyes of grace, which means more grace towards ourselves. More grace towards others. And, of course, in Christ, we encounter the kindness of God. We experience a universe of grace, a cosmos of love. This allows us to bring our hidden parts - our true, unguarded, desiring self out into the open. Loved like this, we experience a kind of indestructibility in our wholeness and truth. We, like Philip, feel found. No wonder Philip responds so easily to Jesus and openly shares what (or who) is important to him. The God who sees us and is for us has found him.