

GENESIS 17:1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants

be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

MARK 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Merimbula Uniting Church

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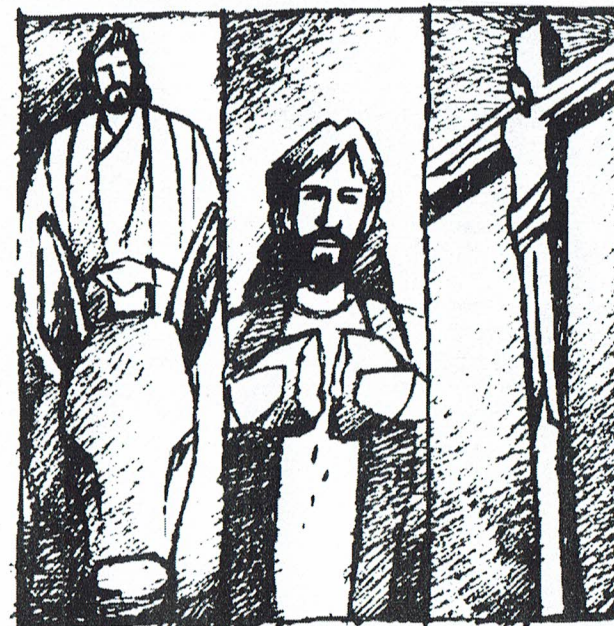
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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'

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Morning Worship: Roster

	25 th February 2024	3 rd March 2024
Leader	Shirley McLennan	Rev Jean Shannon
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Elizabeth Prosser
Entry of Bible	Iris Ballard	Shirley McLennan
Acknowledgement of Country	Beryl McGrath	Joan Winwood
Stewards	Meryll Davey & Iris Ballard	Colin & Margaret Manley
Reader	Julie Russell & Colin Manley	Julie Russell
Pastoral Prayer	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	Joan & Royce Lovett	Joan & Royce Lovett
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Ailsa Liffman
Flowers		
Lectionary	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Romans 4: 31-38 Mark 8: 31-38	Exodus 20: 1-17 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22

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 Pam Jordan 0475 191 923 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.)

Joan Lovett - 25th

Colleen Keit - 28th



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

Find us on Facebook @ Sapphire Coast Uniting Church

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch:

Next Sunday 3rd March after the church service. Bring a plate to share and enjoy some social interaction.

The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, 9th March 2024 at Tathra Uniting Church; 4-6 Beach St, Tathra NSW 2550 We will gather at 9:30am for a 10am start. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

The Duty Roster for March has been prepared. April and May will be prepared soon. Please indicate any absences on the sheets on the noticeboard. We are seeking new volunteers. Please speak to Ailsa if you are prepared to assist.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Jesus calls to the crowd with his disciples, saying, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' Let's take what Jesus says here seriously. To take up your cross is to live as though you are a criminal condemned to death. In Jesus' context, a criminal no longer held any legal claim on possessions. A criminal no longer held any status in their community. Think about what Jesus is placing before us. Consider how it might challenge the normal pursuits and claims of our ordinary human lives - lives shaped around getting ahead, lives shaped by what others might think of us. Jesus is inviting us to discover a new true north. Jesus did not underestimate the challenge. It's like dying ahead of time. But he also described it in terms of living like we had never lived before - a way of losing one's life to gain it. What kind of aliveness might we experience if we take Jesus' invitation to follow him seriously?