

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among our own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

MARK 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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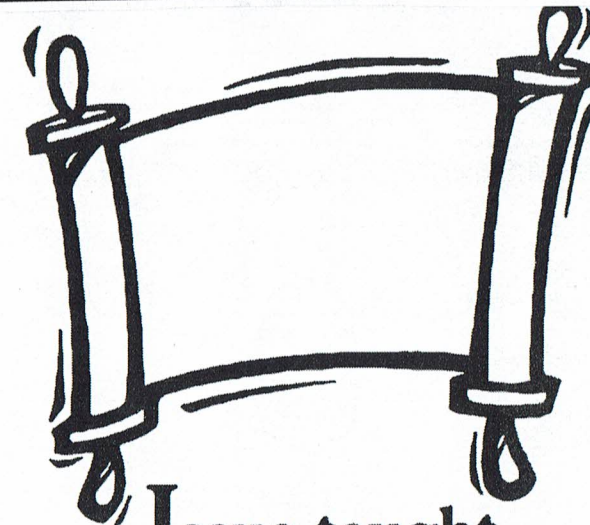
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**Jesus taught
them as one having
authority. Mark 1:22**

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Morning Worship: Roster

	28 th January 2024	4 th February 2024
Leader	Colin Manley	Rev Jean Shannon
Music	Corinne Nicolson	Elizabeth Prosser
Entry of Bible	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Acknowledgement of Country	Joan Lovett	Robyn Herdegen
Stewards	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic	Colin & Margaret Manley
Reader	Joan Winwood	Beryl McGrath
Pastoral Prayer	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	Joan & Royce Lovett	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic
Projection	Jeff Haynes	Tony Olinsky
Flowers	Robyn Herdegen	Robyn Herdegen
Lectionary	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28

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.)

Shirley Bazley - 2nd



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

Congregational meeting after church on Sunday 11th February

Lenten Studies: Wandering Heart (20th February to 19th March)

If you would like to join Lenten studies based on Sanctified Art's daily devotional cards, readings, poetry and other materials... then put your name on the list on the noticeboard. Cut off for registration is 10th February. The group will meet once a week on Tuesday mornings at 11:30am in the church hall. You will receive a deck of the daily devotional 'cards' on Sunday 11 February.

Blokes United will meet this coming Wednesday 31st, 10am at MorMors in central Merimbula for coffee. Hope to see you there.

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

The **Duty Roster** for March, April and May will be prepared in the coming weeks. 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 enters the synagogue, and a man with an unclean spirit cries out. Something about Jesus' presence disturbs the old order and the demons quietly hidden within it. This seems to be what happens when Jesus enters into places. Perhaps there had always been problems here, but the pain and the brokenness had become accepted parts of the old order. In Jesus' presence, however, the things that need to come to the surface seem to emerge.

Oppressive voices are dealt with, and Jesus allows human beings to tune into a wiser, much kinder voice - the Word of God, the Sacred Voice of Love, which redefines and recreates former realities.