

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

EPHESIANS 3: 1-14

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who

created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father.

JOHN 1:(1-9), 10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



MERIMBULA UNITING CHURCH

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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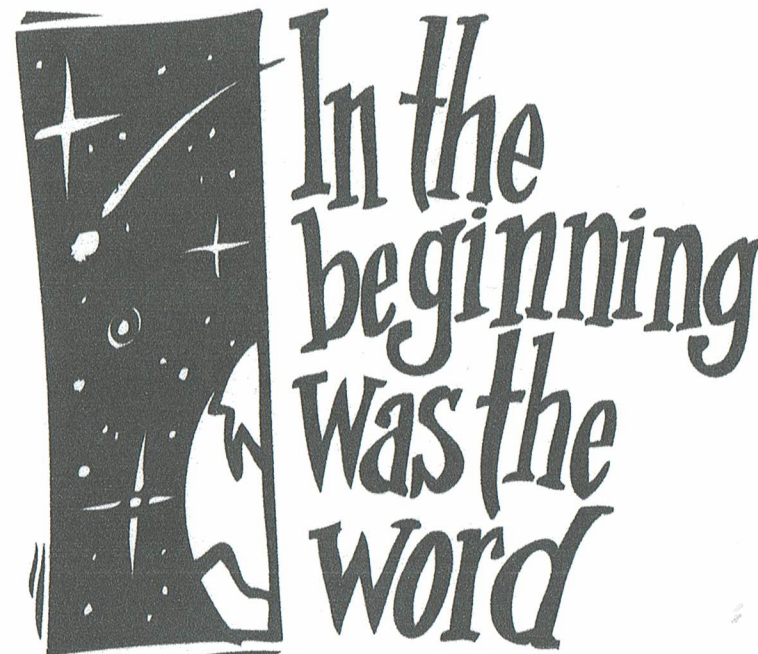
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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'





Morning Worship: Roster

	3 rd January 2021	10 th January 2021
Leader	Corinne Nicolson	Rev Jean Shannon
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Elizabeth Prosser
Duty Elder	Ursula Dew	Ros Williams
Stewards	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey	Joan & Royce Lovett
Reader	Elizabeth Prosser	Margaret Manley
Pastoral Prayer	Ursula Dew	Ros Williams
Morning Tea	No Morning Tea	No Morning tea
Projection	Ailsa Liffman	Jeff Haynes
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Ephesians 3: 1-14 John 1: (1-9). 10-18	Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11

Regular Activities

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

Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and at Wyndham - 2:30pm & 3rd Wednesday/month - 2:00pm at Imlay House. (not at present)

Tura Beach Op Shop - Open Mondays, Wednesday & Fridays 9:00am to 4:00pm (Christmas shutdown: reopens 4th January)

Fellowship Group - 1st Monday/month at 1.30pm - contact Joan or Corinne

"Uniting Gardeners" - 1st & 3rd Friday, 3pm to 4pm at the church.

Uniting Church Tai Chi 108 Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley

Uniting Church Dance Group - Tuesday evenings & Friday mornings

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch - T.B.A.

Birthdays this week:

Stuart Edwards - 9th



For those who would like to make their **Offering** via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for **Giving Direct** are: Acc Name: *Sapphire Coast Uniting Church* BSB: 634-634 Acc Number: 100037934
Cards for the plate, indicating your choice, are available on the front desk.

Christmas Bowl

Thank you to all who contributed to our collection over the Christmas period. A total of \$872.90 was collected at Merimbula and Wyndham for this year's appeal through our open plate.

"Love your neighbour as yourself." - Mark 12:31

The **Op Shop** will reopen tomorrow the 4th January. Many thanks to all those who have contributed their time and energy to the shop in 2020.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

The new year offers us a threshold. It is a moment when the previous year is evaluated, and the new year is given consideration. As this new year dawns, we receive an invitation to pause at the threshold and encounter Christ who is the light and life of all people. Christ was in the beginning. "All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." (John 1:3) At this threshold we are held in the presence of Christ who is in all and through all. We are able to rest in this knowledge, certain of being enveloped in Christ's loving light as we look to the year ahead; certain that the light shines and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Please note that Rev Jean's day off each week will normally be Monday.
(Rev Jean will be taking some annual leave from 29th December till 3rd January, inclusive.)