

ISAIAH 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became

as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

MARK 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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Jesus cured many.

- Mark 1:34

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024

MediaCom
EDUCATION

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Morning Worship: Roster

	4 th February 2024	11 th February 2024
Leader	Rev Jean Shannon	Rev Jean Shannon
Music	Elizabeth Prosser	Rosemary Akesson
Entry of Bible	Alsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Acknowledgement of Country	Robyn Herdegen	Joan Winwood
Stewards	Colin & Margaret Manley	Joan & Royce Lovett
Reader	Beryl McGrath	Geoff Burton
Pastoral Prayer	Ailsa Liffman	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Jeff Haynes
Flowers	Ailsa Liffman	Robyn Herdegen
Lectionary	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	2 Kings 2: 1-12 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9

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.

'Blokos 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

Find us on Facebook @ Sapphire Coast Uniting Church

Reminder - The Worship Roster Group will be meeting in the hall tomorrow, Monday 5th February, at 9.00am

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.

The Duty Roster for March, 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.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 1st March at Christ Church in Pambula

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

In Mark's gospel, we read that the whole city was clamouring for Jesus' healing presence. We all want to be free. We want to be around wholeness. Jesus is the free one who frees others, and everyone wants to be a part of it. Where does Jesus' freedom come from? How does he care for people without feeling overwhelmed by the suffering of humanity? Jesus enters into the quiet places away from the crowds with all their needs and demands. Silence draws us into attunement with what is in our hearts and the God who dwells within us. Jesus emerges with clarity and connection. Jesus has entered into both his own experience and God's heart. Entering into the divine heartbeat is the only way we may continue to enter into the hurting places of the world.