GENESIS 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

ROMANS 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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Merimbula Uniting Church

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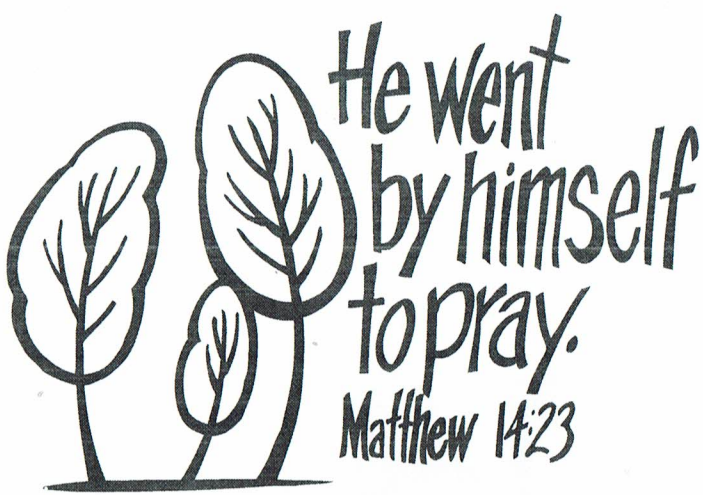
'Creating a caring, nurturing community'



Morning Worship: Roster

	9th August 2026	16th August 2026
Leader	Rev Andrew Collis	Rev Andrew Collis
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Corinne Nicolson
Entry of Bible	Ailsa Liffman	Iris Ballard
Acknowledgement of Country	Iris Ballard	Ailsa Liffman
Stewards	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic	Anne Olinsky & Ailsa Liffman
Reader	Jean Shannon	Geoff Burton
Pastoral Prayer	Ailsa Liffman	Iris Ballard
Morning Tea	Iris Ballard & Meryll Davey	Pauline Campbell & Robin Unger
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Tony Olinsky
Flowers	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Lectionary	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Genesis 45:1-15 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 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, 4th Thursday of the month – helpers would be appreciated.
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 Jeff Haynes on 0402 384 535 for details.
'Blokes United' Coffee Morning - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday each month - 10am at The Eddy
Ladies Friendship Coffee Afternoon – 2nd Wednesday of the month – 2pm at RSL
Church Bring-and-Share Brunch – 1st Sunday/month (Feb, May, Aug, Nov.)

Margaret Speight – 12th

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

Ladies Friendship Coffee Afternoon. Wednesday 12th, 2:00pm at RSL

Duty Roster
To help Ailsa prepare the duty roster for **September, October and November,** I have put a list on the notice board where you can note any future absences. The list will remain up for a few weeks to give you time to think about it and to help Ailsa when she comes to do the roster.

Dates to save:
Saturday 26th September -Culture of Safety Workshop for members of council and leaders 9:00am to 4:00pm in church hall. Details to follow.
Sunday 27th September - Picnic with our Eden friends, likewise details to follow

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT
Jesus has just 'gone the second mile,' setting aside his own need and responding to the hungry crowd. He looks for solitude as he deals with the news of the death of John the baptiser. Today, we would call it self-care. How often do we return to caring for ourselves, even when other pressing issues deflect us?
Before he dismisses the crowd, Jesus compels or constrains the disciples to cross the lake. Do they want to stay to help with the crowd, or do they sense a storm approaching? Either way, they follow Jesus' directions. How do we respond when we sense of God's leading, even if it seems we are heading into a storm?
The scene of the disciples' struggle on the rough lake, without Jesus' calming presence, resonates with our times of stress; sometimes the sense of God's peace and guidance leaves us. There is no magic formula to save us. The night of struggle can be long. That is when we put faith in Jesus' words: 'Take heart, do not be afraid.'
Strangely, the disciples do not recognise Jesus but think he is a ghost. Does God sometimes act in ways that challenge our thinking and beliefs?