

**The Third Sunday
in our Lent Series:
The Lord is...**

...A guided tour through Psalm 23

Commemorating Christ's forty days of fasting in the wilderness, Lent takes us on a journey into His suffering, whilst also pointing us toward the hope of His resurrection. It is a journey through death and rebirth, a time to take stock of our lives.

Scripture: Isaiah 49. 8-13 NIV.

Ezekiel 34. 11-15 NIV.

Luke 12. 29-32. MSG.

Message: 'Rest Stops'

They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill (Isaiah 49.9).

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He refreshes my soul (Psalm 23.2 - 3).

The shepherd does not give rest to the sheep by ridding the world of danger. The wolves are still out there. The sheep lie down because they have the shepherd in view. His presence gives them rest.



**STOP
REVIVE
SURVIVE**

**RESTLESSNESS and IMPATIENCE ... CHANGE NOTHING
EXCEPT ... OUR PEACE and JOY.**

ELIZABETH ELLIOTT

Greener Pastures

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters...
He restores my soul.*

These are the opening lines to one of the most memorized, inspirational, and comforting passages in the Bible and one of the greatest songs of all time. In six verses, it provides a microcosm of God's grace. David wrote Psalm 23 having a good understanding of the life of a shepherd. However, he wrote this song from the perspective of a sheep.

The dry and rocky landscape of Judea is the backdrop to this psalm, and a good description of life.

The green pastures and quiet waters are rest stops, not complete stops on this journey.

They sustain, refresh, and revive.

The Prophet Jeremiah describes these pastures as, "Lost sheep's forgotten resting places" (Jeremiah 50.6-7).

Without a shepherd to lead us to these rest stops along the way; we won't make it to the 'path of righteousness' or through the 'valley of the shadow of death' which are further along the journey.

Without time in these forgotten resting places we become, well, restless.

Restless sheep are prone to wonder.

Restless sheep want what is greener –

and it's always greener on the other side of the fence.

God is the only one who will truly satisfy; God is our green pasture.

The problem is restless sheep are colourblind.

Rest.

*Grace and Peace,
Orrell*

Horse Ride for Hope - Bush Dance Fundraiser

Under the stars with 'Flash Jack' the band; raising funds for Hope Reins' upcoming 1,200 kilometre 'Horse Ride for Hope'. **Saturday 1st April 5-9pm** at 'Hope Reins' (717 Eel Creek Rd, Langshaw, 4570). Tickets cost \$25 for 12 years and older; \$60 family pass (2 adults & 2 children); \$10 each additional child. A drink and hamburger included with each ticket. Book at: www.trybooking.com/CGAVT

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

This month we're collecting **Something to Wear** for children ages 2 to 14. T-shirts, shorts, skirts, caps, beanies, socks, etc. to suit both boys & girls. All items must be **NEW** and not too bulky. Collection boxes are located in our church foyers.

Joy Circle

Less than 2 weeks to our first gathering on **Thursday 30th March, 9.00am** in the **C.E. Room**.

A new name for a new Circle, reflecting its expanded purpose ... to include men, a wider age range and eventually, people from outside as well as inside our church.

Joy and Friendship, both develop when Jesus is at the centre.

There will be morning tea, great fellowship and a time for sharing ideas around what **you** would like to see happening in **Joy Circle**.

Please let us know if you are planning to come along, just for catering purposes.



Congregational Meeting next **Sunday 19th March, 10.45am** in our **Gympie Church**. We hope you can join us.

1) **Nominations Close** at 10.30am, today, for the roles of: Presbytery Representative; Congregational Chair, Congregational Deputy Chair and Congregational Secretary.

2) If you haven't yet received a **Congregational Membership** Information pack, please see Joan or Cherylie in Gympie, Ken at Imbil or contact the church office. The pack includes a GRUC Membership Affirmation / Application Form and a Membership Covenant Form.

To help us accurately update our records, it would be helpful and very much appreciated if you would return the completed forms as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving.

People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works.

Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions.

You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

Don't be afraid of missing out.

You're my dearest friends!

The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself."

Luke 12:29-32. The Message (MSG)



Uniting Church in Australia Regulations

According to the Uniting Church in Australia Regulations, Church Council's main priority is to:

Build the Congregation up in faith and love.

This means encouraging each member to be active disciples in all of their life, not just while in the Church building.

The point of active discipleship is to participate in Christ's mission in the world. The Church believes that mission belongs to God. God is already doing it in millions of different ways within all our communities. Church Council helps the Congregation identify what God is doing and then join in as best it can.



UNITING 4570
So we can be one

What's
Happening

- * **Corporate Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, Gympie,
- * **Nominations Close** - for 4 congregational positions, today at 10.30am
- * **Congregational Meeting** - Next Sunday, 19 March, 10.45am, Gympie
- * **JOY Circle** - Thursday, 30 March, 9am, CE Room (see inside)
- * **Hope Reins Bush Dance** - Saturday, 1 April, 5 - 9pm (see inside)

About Gympie Regional Uniting Church ~ UNITING 4570

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Details

Church Office... P: (07) 5482 2985 M: 0493 442 250 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Fri 8.30am-12pm; Tue 12pm-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Rev Orrell Battersby.. 0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 86 ♦ Children 14 ♦ facebook 115 ♦ YouTube 14

Total Week's Offering: \$2294.95 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,792.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)

**The Lord stands above the new day, for God has made it.
All restlessness, all worry, and anxiety flee before Him.**

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer ~
