

25th February 2024

The VIBE

Series: Where The Wild God Is

Message: Self Denial....The Turn From Me To You!

Scripture: Mark 8. 31-38 NIV. Revelation 12. 7-12. NIV.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Leo Tolstoy wrote, "The right path in life is very narrow, but it is important to find it. You can understand it, as well as we can understand it, as a walkway of wood built across a swamp; if you step off it, you will plunge into a swamp of misunderstanding and evil. A wise man returns to the true path at once, but a weak man plunges further and further into the swamp, and it becomes more and more difficult for him to get out."



The walkway of wood built across the swamp of life is the way of the cross, and it is one we all choose whether or not we will follow.

A Prayer Based on Philippians 1:18-30

Holy Spirit, make me so dead to self and so embracing of the cross that I have no shame on judgement day in how I handled difficulty, self-denial, persecution, misunderstanding, sacrifice, suffering and the burdens of life and ministry.

May the crucified life develop in me an unshakable resilience.

By Your empowerment, I will face Jesus with confidence knowing that I embraced His cross and the call to deny myself.

I will walk in the blessing that You freely give, but I will also walk through this life carrying the cross of Christ.

Let my unwavering resilience and relentless commitment to Your purposes be a sign to the world that the gospel is true, and that they must repent.

May my abandonment to Jesus attract people to Him.

May it birth within the church this same commitment.

Make us a world-wide community of sold-out saints.

Birth this grace within me and within the church in Jesus' name, amen.

Re-Jesus: A Wild Messiah for a Missional Church

The phrase 'Re-Jesus' was first introduced in a book by two Aussies: Michael Frost and Alan Hirsh. 'Re' is the prefix to denote doing something again or going back to it such as re-visit, re-discover and re-ignite.

In their book, Frost and Hirsh challenge us to re-align our lives, churches, and organizations with the biblical Jesus.

From their perspective, Western Christians take their cues more from their culture than from Jesus. Their observations call us to consider these vital questions:

How close or how far are we from Jesus' pattern of doing global missions – making disciples of the nations?

Has Western Christianity dulled our ability to reflect Jesus' manner and way of living life on-mission?



If yes, how do we 'Re-Jesus' our lives, our church and our mission?

To answer this question, we need to latch on to Jesus as He walks the neighbourhoods of His time. I have decided to do just that – re-read the Gospel of Mark as part of Lent and rediscover the Jesus' way of living.

I thought you may like to go on the journey with me.

Grace and Peace,
Orrell



Last Week

There was alot going on last week ... 2024 start-ups for Grand Friends and Joy Circle, former Bible Society Member's Morning Tea and a Long Table Meal.

These great get-togethers take planning and preparation and we thank all of you who gave your time, of your gifts and efforts and to everyone who participated.

World Day of Prayer ♦ Friday 1st March

Mary Valley - Kandanga Public Hall, 9.30am.

Gympie - Apostolic Church (cnr Atkinson Rd, entry off Old Maryborough Rd, Araluen). Fellowship and Cuppa from 5pm, Service starts at 6pm.

Tuesday Morning Prayer & Communion

8am in the CE Room. If you haven't been before and are free for an hour on Tuesday mornings, we encourage you to come along and check it out. It's a terrific time of fellowship and corporate prayer is vital for our church.



*Alma Day went home to Jesus on Wednesday, 21st February 2024.
Alma's family invites you to celebrate her life at a service
this Tuesday, 27th February, 10.30am at The Gympie Funeral Home.
Please keep Graham and their family in your prayers.*

Kidz Church Leaders

We're still urgently seeking Kidz Church Leaders - aiming to expand our pool of Leaders to a minimum of 4 people. Leaders will have at least one assistant and we have a children's program with training provided. Please ... prayerfully consider taking on a Kidz Church Leader role. Don't feel daunted - you will be part of a team with a supportive approach. Have a conversation with Narelle or Sophie Collins who can explain what is entailed.

Operation Christmas Child 2024

Operation Christmas Child is a way to bless children in need around the world by filling gift boxes with items such as clothing, toys, personal care items, art and activity supplies and other fun gifts. They're packed in specially designed 'shoeboxes' and are then distributed to children in over 100 countries (often to remote locations) ... all in the Name of Jesus Christ.



We've been supporting 'Operation Christmas Child' for some time and many of you recently indicated that you would like to continue giving your support in 2024.

Each month (from March to July), we concentrate on a specific category of gifts. (You can leave your donated gifts in our church foyers). Afterward, we ask for volunteers to help pack the boxes and we seek monetary donations to cover the cost of freight.

All items need to be NEW, of GOOD QUALITY and of A SIZE THAT ALLOWS A NUMBER OF GIFTS TO FIT IN A SINGLE BOX.

During March we're collecting Things for School - drawing and coloured pencils, felt pens, biros, rubbers, sharpeners, small pencil cases and notebooks/exercise books. **NO RULERS PLEASE.**

Baptism and Reaffirmation ~ Resurrection Sunday 31st March 2024

Would you like to be baptised or to reaffirm your baptismal vows? If so, please catch up with Cherylie from the office.

Last year, on Resurrection Sunday, ten adults from our church family were baptised - it was a beautiful and moving experience and we look forward to having a similar time this year - just look at the joy in these faces!





UNITING 4570
Better Together

Sometimes Less is More and More is Less

Jesus notices what we keep as well as what we give. For example, Jesus watched people giving money to God's work and said the widow who'd given pennies had given more than the high rollers (Luke 21:1-4).

Our real values in life are revealed by what we keep and what we give, whether time, money, or devotion. Because selfishness and worldly values are constant temptations, now (Lent) is a good time to re-examine our values in life.

Let's take some time to ponder Christ's warnings against being stingy toward God (Luke 12:16-21) and remember His Words below:



"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15)."

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 Us

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Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-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 Sunday

Attendance: Adults 82 ♦ Children 10 ♦ Facebook 56 ♦ YouTube 18

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,143.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

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

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