

17th March 2024

The VIBE

Series: The Great Restoration Project

Message: Restoration +

Scripture - Job 42. 10-12 NIV. Matthew 5. 43-48 NIV. Matthew 6. 9-15 NIV.

When God restores YOU, He not only restores what's lost or stolen - He upgrades!

Job lost everything; he was rich but became poor. Job trusted God and everything was restored back to him - with more besides!

"After Job had interceded for his friends, God restored his fortune - and then doubled it! ...God blessed Job's later life even more than his earlier life."

Job 42. 10-15 MSG.

The biblical meaning of the word '**restoration**' is to receive back more than has been lost to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition.

The main point is someone or something is improved beyond measure.

This is unlike the regular dictionary meaning of 'restoration' which is to return something back to its original condition.

Repeatedly throughout the Bible, God blesses people for their faith and their hardships by making up for their losses and giving them more than they previously had. Allison Bottke puts it best...

"Restoring ruined dreams and reclaiming wasted years is what God does best."

*Grace and Peace,
Orrell*

Coming Up ...

- ★ **Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, in our Gympie CE Room
- ★ **Ladies' Social Event** - This Tuesday, 4 - 6pm, CE Room
- ★ **Joy Circle** - This Thursday, 21st March, 9.30am, CE Room
- ★ **Easter Services** - see invitation loose inside this issue
- ★ **HymnFest** - Sunday, 14th April, 2.30pm, Gympie Church



Mitch Collins and Ashlee Watt are getting married next Saturday, 23rd March. We're very excited for them and we ask God to bless them on their wedding day and for their life together.

**God will RESTORE all things to Himself in Jesus Christ,
we are called to be active and intentional.
as we restore what needs our care.**

There is the possibility of restoration around us every day.

The first task of restoration is in us! God reaches out to save us each day.

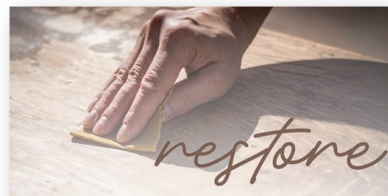
We are called to be active and intentional in God's work of restoration.

What are the tools we are equipped with for this important task?

Wisdom, faith, and a clean heart.

We are not alone - Let us lean into the deep work of the Spirit.

Queensland Synod



Ladies Social Event

To wind up before the Easter break, our ladies study group is having a 'Ladies Games Night' ... this **Tuesday, 19th March** from **4pm to 6pm** in the CE Room. All ladies are welcome. No need to RSVP. If you'd like to come, a small plate of snacks to share would be appreciated and you're welcome to bring along a favourite game. Let Cherylie know if you need transport 0413 895 247.

Joy Circle ~ March

What a great 'Joy Circle' gathering we had last month - our first for 2024. Terrific job Jill and Jo! Our next get-together is this **Thursday, 21st March, 9.30am** in the CE Room. It will be another enjoyable morning - the theme is 'Easter' and Dudley will be sharing some of his story. Look forward to seeing you there - your friends are welcome too.

Joy Circle's 2023 Outreach

Last year, you generously shared from your abundance through care packages put together for some local families experiencing challenging times ... these families were overwhelmed and very grateful. Our access pathway to these families has now closed and we are no longer asking for food and grocery items at this time.

Operation Christmas Child 2024

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

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. As always, your support is truly appreciated.

A Labour Of Love – No Pain No Gain

By Shirley Sargeant

My restoration story began quite a few years ago with a marriage that collapsed. I had floated along in it, never thinking anything was wrong. I discovered how bad things were when my husband made it clear that, in his words, he was doing his own thing. Divorce followed.

Our relationship could not be repaired. For the next twelve months, I cried myself to sleep each night, asking God what I should have done differently.

In my misery and brokenness, I called out desperate, tear-soaked prayers to God. And then, each morning, I would try again to be strong and loving for my three children.

I certainly could not do that in my own strength.

But even since I was a young child, I knew without doubt that God truly loved me.

Over that year, I grew into a real person – I think I was only half a person until then. I had gone from being dependent upon my parents to being dependent on my husband. I did not even know how to change a light bulb!

Over that year, God led me into full-time employment, so I was able to be responsible for the house payments and meet all the expenses involved in looking after three schoolchildren. A good friend from Church became their 'second mother' after school each day.

We had become God's restoration project!

One year on, and I could hardly believe how much we had achieved in partnership with our faithful God. Through all the hardship and sadness, God had shown us the way to live, trusting in Him for all our needs.

Slowly, joy had returned to my life.

How wonderfully God had guided, cared for, and loved us and set our feet on the path of healing and restoration.

The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together....

The life maps of God are right, showing the way to joy.



Kidz Church Leaders

Thank you to those who have, so far, answered our call for Kidz Church Leaders. We do need more for our roster! Please, prayerfully consider taking on a role in this vitally significant ministry. Don't feel daunted - you will be part of a team. Have a conversation with Narelle or Sophie Collins.

A personal invitation to you this Easter ...

Gympie

Good Friday Service 29th of March @ 8am

1. Remember and affirm your baptism - come forward along with others to be anointed in the shape of the cross with oil on your forehead.

You can do this on Good Friday without any need of prior notice.

Resurrection Sunday 31st of March @ 9am

2. Reaffirm your (infant) baptism, by full emersion in water and public acknowledgment of Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.
3. Repent and be baptised by full emersion in water as a public acknowledgment of Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

If you would like to either (2) reaffirm your baptism or (3) be baptised for the first time by full immersion in water, then please let us know prior to Resurrection Sunday.

Imbil

Good Friday Service 29th of March @ 8am

Resurrection Sunday 31st of March @ 9am



IF YOU *confess*
WITH YOUR MOUTH
THAT JESUS IS LORD
AND *believe* IN YOUR HEART
THAT GOD RAISED HIM
FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WILL BE *saved*.

ROMANS 10:9



UNITING 4570 Better Together

In this new year, as we look forward with faith for a new season, we remain energised by the possibilities of RENEWAL.

We seek a deep and powerful renewal that encompasses reflection, recognition, and restoration, one that challenges us to resurrection and re-affirmation, that may ask us to repent or to reconcile, and that calls us to realign, reimagine, and rejoice.

We need to look clearly at ourselves, and the path set before us.

The Uniting Church has a particular commitment to recognising our imperfections.

Let us also recognise the Spirit in all we do, the possibility of a miracle, and the hope of a new way. (Qld Synod)



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

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

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

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Last Sunday

Attendance: Adults 93 ♦ Children 9 ♦ Facebook 67 ♦ YouTube 10

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,232.30 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

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

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