

The VIBE

24th March 2024

Series: The Great Restoration Project

**Message - *But wait...THERE'S MORE!*
.... Everything lost or stolen returned
twice over!**



Scripture - Zechariah 9. 9-12 NIV. John 12. 12-19 NIV.

**Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.
(Zechariah 9.12 NIV)**

What Does It Mean To Be A Prisoner Of Hope?

You become a prisoner of hope when you've been hoping for the wrong thing. Like the Israelites in Babylon, we have to face the fact our hopes for returning to the good old days, have been dashed. But this is not cause for despair. Look at what Zechariah calls the people to do right off the bat ...

Rejoice! 'Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout aloud, Daughter Jerusalem!'

But wait, there's more!

'Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.'

Your hope is not in a building like the temple, or a place like Jerusalem. Or a bygone golden age.

Your hope is in the Lord your God. He is your fortress.

So, enough of the nostalgia, get busy rejoicing!

The king who comes is not a military warrior on a white horse coming to conquer your enemies for you.

This king comes in humility, riding on a donkey.

Margaret O'Dell writes. ***"Donkeys don't go to war, horses do,"***

She adds, ***"Hope remains grounded in the conviction of God's presence; once people are released from the prison of old expectations, they are free to discover God at work in new and unexpected ways."***



God's presence + Release from expectations (yours and others) = Freedom!

Grace and Peace,

Orrell

Baptism Invites Us to
~ *Submit Our Hearts and Wills to Christ* ~

In Mark's Gospel the focus is on John the Baptist's proclamation that One mightier than himself was to come after him, someone who would baptize with the Holy Spirit rather than water.

When Jesus arrives, He is baptized by John, and immediately the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descends upon our Lord and the voice of the Father is heard, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

John is taken aback by Jesus' request for baptism, and rightfully so.

Jesus was without sin; His Baptism was an act of obedience to God and solidarity with human beings to reconcile us to the Father.

Near the end of His ministry on earth Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Baptism by telling His disciples to baptize all nations so that people would die to sin and begin a new life as a disciple of Christ.

(Matthew 28. 19-20)



Baptism is an invitation for us to submit our hearts and wills to Christ, embarking on a journey of deepening love and faithfulness. We encourage you all to remember, renew, and reaffirm your baptism this Easter.

This Easter is an ideal opportunity to recommit yourself to the solemn promises made at your baptism. By doing this we can all be strengthened in our resolve to build a discipleship culture.

Jesus led the way with His own Baptism, it's time for you to follow His example and lead the way for others by either recommitting or committing (for the first time) yourself in the waters of baptism.



Congratulations to Mitch and Ashlee who were married yesterday! May each day of your life together be a celebration of your love for each other and your love for God.

Kidz Church Update

Holiday Break. Kidz Church is having a 3-week break over the upcoming school holidays, from 31st March to 14th April inclusive. Back on 21st April.

Leaders. Thank you to those who have already answered this call. We do need more for our roster! Don't feel daunted - you will be part of a team with resources available. Have a conversation with Narelle or Sophie Collins to find out more.

Gympie Sound System, Livestreaming & Data (Screen Display) Training

Here's an exciting opportunity ... we're offering training on our worship technology systems. As with other facets of our church life, we're looking to build a team of proficient operators. If you're interested, please let Joan or Cherylie know and a training date will be arranged in due course.

Operation Christmas Child 2024

During March we're collecting 'Things for School' - drawing & coloured pencils, felt pens, biros, rubbers, sharpeners, small pencil cases & notebooks/exercise books. (No Rulers Please). Items need to be new, of good quality and of a size that allows a number of gifts to fit in a Single Box. *Thankyou.*

Easter Services

Service times will be the same at both our Gympie and Imbil locations.

Good Friday, 29th of March ~ 8am

Resurrection Sunday 31st March ~ 9am

Our Gympie Easter Services will provide the opportunity to:

Good Friday

Remember and affirm your baptism - come forward along with others to be anointed in the shape of the cross with oil on your forehead. No prior notice required.

Resurrection Sunday

Reaffirm your baptism or be baptised for the first time

by full immersion in water. Please let us know by Tuesday, 26th March.

- **Meeting** If you are being baptised, please meet with Orrell immediately after today's service.



Coming Up ...

- * **Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, in our Gympie CE Room
- * **Classical Music Presentation** - Today, 4pm, Gympie Anglican Church, (cnr Amy St. & Lady Mary Tce). Gold coin donation. Light refreshments.
- * **HymnFest** - Sunday, 14th April, 2.30pm, our Gympie Church



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. *(Old 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 76 ♦ Children 11 ♦ Facebook 87 ♦ YouTube 10

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,060.00 ... 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)