

3rd March 2024

The VIBE

New Series: The Great Restoration Project

Message: 'Restore the Joy'

Psalms 51: 10-12. NIV.

When David pleads with God to “restore to me the joy of your salvation”, he is asking that he would again have the fellowship with God that he once knew and enjoyed.

David could not enjoy God’s fellowship while he had unconfessed sin.

Even today, we can lose the joy of our salvation.

We will not lose our salvation; sin will not separate the believer from God, but it can rob us of joy and the enjoyment of close fellowship with our Saviour.

**GOD
>can<
RESTORE**



Kidz Church Leaders

We’re still urgently calling for Kidz Church Leaders! 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.

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. Thank you.

Joy Circle

What a great ‘Joy Circle’ gathering we had last month - our first for 2024. Great job Jill and Jo! Our next get-together will be on Thursday 21st March, 9.30am in the CE Room. Look forward to seeing you there - your friends are welcome.

Eternity Magazine Announcement

With a heavy heart, the Bible Society Australia has announced that ‘Eternity News’ will close on 30th April 2024. The team praises God for Eternity’s impact over the years and thanks readers and contributors who have been a part of the journey.

Orrell's Blog 3rd March 2024

It is very fitting we take 40 days (Lent) of preparation leading up to Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.

Jesus' death and resurrection are at the pinnacle of our narrative - the story guides and gives form, shape, and direction to our lives. Easter is an 'alternative ending' to a story which 'appears' to be hopelessly and rapidly progressing towards a tragic ending. The empty tomb is the ultimate 'director's cut,' since it represents how God intends the story to end.



In very simple terms, this narrative can be summed up with three R's:

- *Rescue* - The history of God's gift of Salvation is of God rescuing His people from bondage, first from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and eventually from the bondage of sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- *Restoration* - God continually restores us into a right relationship with Him and with one another.
- *Reassurance* - God's saving grace continues to be present with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit and the Church, and in particular, the Sacraments.

Easter is a perfect time to remember, renew, and reaffirm our baptism. It is also an opportunity to repent (do a uey) and believe the good news. (Mark 1.15 NIV)

Through baptism, we embrace God's narrative as our own, replacing the unhealthy stories too often guiding our lives into disarray, unhappiness, and, in too many cases, ruin.

Baptism results in us joining a people in recovery.

Recovery from any form of addiction requires a healthy new narrative, lest the old plotline which caused the addiction in the first place re-asserts itself.

The new narrative tells us we are born and live addicted to sin, but, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we find a path to recovery and freedom - a new life, which is also known as Salvation.

At Easter, we celebrate our baptism, by which we are called back to this life-giving narrative reminding us of God's ongoing rescue, restoration, and reassurance.

So, this Easter we want to give you a personal invitation....

Good Friday Service 29th of March @ 8am

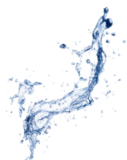
1. **Remember and affirm your baptism** - come forward along with others to be anointed in the shape of the cross with oil on your forehead.



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.

*"... '**Repent and be baptised, every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he (Peter) warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." Acts 2.38-41. NIV.

- * **Church Office This Week** - closed Wednesday
- * **Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, in our Gympie CE Room

- 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



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 re-align, 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.

(Uniting News 20th February 2024)



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

Offering & Attendance Last Sunday

Attendance: Adults 77 • Children 11 • Facebook 51 • YouTube 11

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,054.00 ... 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)