

New Series: Two Roads

Message: The Road to Recovery

- Getting you (and your anxiety) back on track

Scripture: John 20: 19 - 31 NIV.

In John 20: 19 - 31 three things happen.

1. Jesus appears to the disciples and breathes the Holy Spirit onto them.
2. Jesus appears to Thomas, who was absent at the first appearance, and Thomas demands to see the marks in Jesus' body.
3. John points out the main purpose for his Gospel:

"³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. "

Doubts and uncertainty frighten us. That's why Thomas gets such a bad rap - (*Doubting Thomas*) he dares to bring doubt into our well-ordered lives of faith.

The women who were the first to see the empty tomb, couldn't experience the resurrected Jesus for the disciples, and the disciples couldn't experience the resurrected Jesus for Thomas.

No, Thomas like all of us had to make a personal connection with Jesus for himself.

Is it doubt, or faith, that holds out for one's own experience of the resurrected Jesus?

... 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' Mark 9: 24. NIV.

Peace be with you,
Orrell



Hiding Behind Locked Doors

The Easter season of alleluias can sometimes seem to leave little room for acknowledging our doubts, our fears, and our pain. We tend to forget that for the first disciples, there was genuine fear, real doubt, unbelievable pain, and crushing confusion before there was understanding and joy at what had taken place on that third day.

One week after Jesus appeared to His disciples, they were gathered once again behind locked doors, suggesting that Thomas was not the only one still needing reassurance that Jesus had in fact conquered death.



The natural thing to do when we are feeling anxious or threatened is to bunker down, lock the doors, and focus on our own security rather than the risky mission to which we are all called.

The good news is, Jesus cannot be stopped by our locked doors or our emotional fortifications.

Jesus comes to us as He came to the first disciples, right in the midst of our fear, pain, doubt, and confusion. He comes to us, as He came to them, speaking peace, breathing into our anxious lives the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Imbil's Mother's Day Service

You are invited to a special service to celebrate Mother's Day at our Imbil Church on **Sunday, 12th May, 9am**. Linda Watt will be the guest speaker and the men will prepare and serve a delicious morning tea. It will be a wonderful morning!

Operation Christmas Child

During April we're collecting '**Something to Wear**' - Boys and Girls clothing for ages 2 to 14. Only new clothing such as t-shirts, shorts, skirts, socks, underwear, caps, beanies, thongs, etc. to fit in a shoebox-size gift pack with lots of other items. Clothing is required to have sleeves or come with a t-shirt to wear underneath.

Sound System, Livestreaming & Data Training

We're offering training on our Gympie worship technology systems - aiming to build a team of proficient operators - ~~but we haven't had any takers as yet!~~ This is a terrific opportunity to learn some new skills from a professional, so please give this your prayerful consideration and, if you're interested, let Joan or Cherylie know.



HymnFest This Afternoon

We hope you can join us to sing some favourite hymns in our Gympie Church this afternoon at **2.30pm** followed by afternoon tea. (Please bring a plate to share). Visitors are very welcome.

Friends of The Bible Society

The former members of the Gympie Branch of the Bible Society (now referred to as 'Friends of The Bible Society') meet regularly over a cuppa and you are always welcome to join them. They'll be getting together at **10am** this **Wednesday, 17th April** at The Coffee Club (Central Shopping Centre).

Joy Circle

This **Thursday, 18th April, 9.30am** (meeting in the CE Room). 'Anzac' will be our theme with a particular focus on the brave and amazing 'Australian Light Horse'. Come along for a great time together and bring your friends.



Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

The Zion Lutheran Church is hosting the next local Combined Churches Prayer Meeting on **Tuesday 23rd April, 6pm to 6.30pm** (9 Nash Street, Gympie - entry by O'Connell Street). All are welcome.

NEWS FLASH Next month, we're hosting the Prayer Meeting at our Gympie Church on 21st May. We encourage you to support this time of united prayer.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **10.45am** on **Sunday, 28th April** in our Gympie Church. We'll have a quick morning tea after the worship service which will allow time for anyone from The Mary Valley to drive here.

Kidz Church

Our Kidz Church program will be starting term 2 from next Sunday. We still need more Leaders for our roster ... you will be part of a team with resources available. Have a conversation with Narelle or Sophie Collins or with Joan to find out more.

- * **HymnFest** - Today, 2.30pm, in our Gympie Church
- * **Prayer & Communion** - Tuesdays, 8am, in the CE Room
- * **Friends of The Bible Society** - Wed, 17th April, 10am, at the Coffee Club
- * **Joy Circle** - Thursday, 18th April, 9.30am, CE Room
- * **Local Churches Prayer Meeting** - Tue, 23rd April, 6pm, Lutheran Church
- * **Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, 28th April, 10.45am, Gympie UC
- * **Imbil Mother's Day Celebration** - Sunday, 12th May, 9am, Imbil UC

Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling - the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!



UNITING 4570
Better Together

God's Goal

"God's overarching goal is to produce men and women who demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ.

God does not want a church filled with white robed saints.

He does not want a church filled with theological authorities or cultured clergy.

He wants a church filled with ordinary men and women who exemplify the extraordinary integrity, temperament, wholeness, compassion, individuality, boldness, righteousness, earnestness, love, forgiveness, selflessness, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ!" *Ray Steadman*

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 Over Easter

Attendance: Adults 47 ♦ Children 7 ♦ Facebook 91 ♦ YouTube 10

Total Week's Offering: \$ 1,757.20 ... 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)