

28th July 2024

The VIBE

Theme: Keep Dancing

with Rev. David Fanning

Scriptures: John 6:1-21; Ephesians 3:14-21
(with references to Philippians 4:4-7)



When Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee, a large crowd followed him because they saw the signs he was doing for the sick. (6:2). Only John tells us that *the Passover, the festival of the Jews, is near.*(6:4).

In John's version of the story, Jesus is at the centre of the activity. Apart from Jesus telling them to ask the people to sit down, and to gather up the left overs, they play no significant part in the story.

Jesus knew exactly how he would feed the people (6:6). It is the boy who has the food (6:9), and gives it to Jesus. It is Jesus who then gave thanks (6:11) and in this gospel, it is Jesus, not the disciples, who distributed it to the people (6:11) and it was Jesus who requested the left overs be kept.

And the SIGN in all of this - *I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.* (6:35).

Remember that first dance step *Rejoice in your union with the Lord. (Phil 4:4).*
This union is a gift to be in relationship with the one who is The bread of Life.

And the boy? He does not get a mention in Matthew, Mark or Luke. In fact women and children were probably not counted in the five thousand. And yet, his lunch is offered, received, blessed and used to feed the crowd, including him.

And that brought to mind the second dance step *Show a gentle attitude towards everyone (4:5a).* In the Greek word translated gentle is a large dose of "generosity". The boy was generous - he gave all his lunch.

As Paul says, *Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.* (Ephesians 4:2). In our actions be like the little boy and offer them to others.

The disciples cross the lake in the dark (John 6:17) and encounter a rough sea caused by a wind storm. (6:18)

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They were terrified by seeing Jesus walking across the water, not the storm.(6:19). And then the fear ends - not when the storm abates, but when they recognize that *It is I; do not be afraid"* (6:20) The Lord is near.

The Lord is near. Who said that? **Paul in dance step 3** (Phil 4:6a)

Jesus is invited into the boat and the journey ends. (Jn 6:21) but not for us. Because he is near in our boat (community), he invites us to pray - *to ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.* (Phil 4:6)

Dance step 4.... Pray without ceasing!!!

Grace and peace,
~ David ~



Last Sunday's Gympie Message . . .

Some Good news! Whilst we didn't livestream last Sunday's Gympie message (to avoid a potential copyright issue), we have since been able to upload the message - after a little tweaking - onto to our Facebook and Youtube platforms.

Thank you David Wright for both your message and your technical know-how!

Supply Ministry During August and September

Rev. Dr. Peter Hall and Rev. David Fanning will be sharing ministry over these two months on a roster basis. Either Peter or David will preach in Gympie each week and will lead worship at Imbil one Sunday per month.

They will also partner with Joan Burke to lead worship at Coinda Aged Care Facility twice a month and will be available to lead funeral services as required.

In addition to our worship services, Peter and David will be providing pastoral care in consultation with church representatives from both of our locations.

Gympie Next Sunday: We look forward to a message from Rev. Dr. Peter Hall and sharing Communion. Scripture Readings will be Ephesians 4:1-16 and John 6:24-35.

Life and Witness Survey

As you are aware, we are in the process of participating in a 'Life and Witness' assessment of our Church - Gympie and Imbil. Survey forms have been made available to you for your constructive feedback. Presbytery provided a letter, with the survey forms, which outlines the purposes of this process.

The 3-person Presbytery Consultation Team will include Rev. Russell Morris (Presbytery Chair), Rev. David Ellis (Minister Burnett Network of Churches) and Mrs Wendy Jensen (Presbytery Property Officer).

The Consultation Team will be visiting us over two weekends: 10th/11th August in Gympie and 24th/25th August at Imbil. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with them, please contact Joan on 0400 439 009.

Christmas Shoeboxes Next Month

During August, we're asking for funds towards the **Cost of Freight** (which is \$12.50 per box). Donations can be placed in an envelope labelled "Shoebox" and dropped into the offering plate/box; given directly to Helen or the office; or deposited into our bank account identified as "Shoebox" (our bank account details are on the back page). If you have any gift donations sitting at home, please bring them in by the end of August. *Thank you so much for your generosity this year - this is an amazing ministry bringing delight to many children across the globe.*

Call to Prayer for Uniting 4570

Wherever you may be at **7.30pm of a Friday** (or at a time that better suits you), we ask that you continue to faithfully pray for:

- * Our next Ministerial Appointment - for the process and for the appointment of someone who will be enthusiastic about our vision and plans; and for those coming to deliver messages in the interim.
- * Our 'Life and Witness' Consultation process - for everyone involved and for positive outcomes for our church as we move forward.
- * Please continue to keep Orrell and Christine in your prayers as they move into a new season of life as disciples of Jesus.

Oriana Choir

'Reflections' songs of LOVE and HOPE ... **Saturday 17th August**, 2pm, St Patrick's Church, Gympie. Tickets from oriana.org.au

Hope Reins Bush Dance

Are you ready for a nostalgic evening of toe-tappin' and boot-scootin'? This will be a great family-friendly, outdoor event where you can have a lot of fun while helping raise funds for HOPE REINS.

Saturday, 31st August, 5:30 to 9:30pm at the home of HOPE REINS, 727 Eel Creek Rd, Langshaw, 4570.

Tickets can only be purchased in advance at www.trybooking.com/1194736

\$30 Adults, \$25 Adult concession, \$70 family pass (2 adults + 2 children under 17 yrs + \$10 for each additional child). Tickets include 1 burger and a drink (sausage available). Extra drinks and burgers can be purchased on the night.



Synod News

Some of you will remember Rev. Linda Hanson, a former Minister of our Gympie Red Hill Road Church. On the 17th July, Linda was inducted as Associate General Secretary of the Uniting Church Synod Office (Brisbane). Congratulations Linda!

- * **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
- * **Joy Circle** - Thursday, 15th August, 9.30am, CE Room.



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 fill with theological 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)*

The People of God on The Way

The Uniting Church affirms that it belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord.

~ from *Uniting 4570's Operational Guidelines* ~

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

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 Week

Attendance: Adults 78 • Children 9 • Numbers of Youtube & Facebook views not included - see inside this issue for more information.

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,148.20 ... 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)