

26th January 2025



Theme: **Confirmation of God's Call**

Bible Reading: **Luke 4: 14-21 RSV**

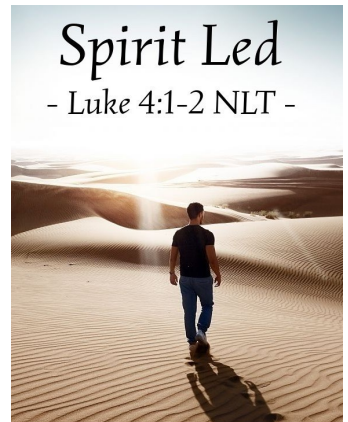
The reading commences with the phrase "in the power of the Spirit." At the beginning of this chapter we read that Jesus was 'led by the Spirit' into the desert. At his baptism Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. We read that Jesus allows the Holy Spirit to lead and guide him in his life. It is a message to all who would claim to follow Jesus.

To what extent do we let the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in our lives?

Jesus taught in the synagogues across Galilee. Josephus, the Jewish historian, wrote that there were 204 villages and towns in the region of Galilee and none had a population under 15,000 persons. It was a heavily populated region. It would appear from the reading that Jesus taught in a lot of places in Galilee before he went back to Nazareth. His ministry was obviously very acceptable since 'everyone praised him.' No doubt Jesus' reputation preceded him to Nazareth.

We note in verse 16 that it was Jesus' custom to attend the synagogue. That is an important example for all of us. The synagogue was known to be a place of worship and teaching - different from the temple in Jerusalem. The service in the synagogue comprised of the reading of the Law, prayer and teaching based on a reading from the Prophets. The Law was read in Hebrew and translated verse-by-verse into Aramaic. The Christian service of worship was based on the synagogue service.

The scroll of Isaiah was given to Jesus to read from. The reading from Isaiah 61:1-2 was a confirmation of the ministry that Jesus was to exercise. Whether the reading was chosen for Jesus or Jesus chose it, the point is that it would have been the work of the Holy Spirit and it enabled Jesus to confirm his calling. It is the Holy Spirit at work when our calling by God is confirmed, whether through prophecy, Scripture or prayer.



Amen,  
Peter Hall

## A New Year

Church life is returning to a sense of normality with the end of the summer holidays and our families getting back into the swing of their busy lives.

As you can see, this is the first issue of 'The Vibe' for 2025.

Today's Gympie message will be livestreamed to facebook (still to sort out Youtube), Kidz Church kicks off and the band is back!

Rev. Margaret Stehbens will be preaching at Imbil this morning and Rev. Dr. Peter Hall in Gympie - we look forward to their insightful messages.

A number of our church family went away over Christmas and the summer holidays - we hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends. To those of you who didn't get away, thank you for your continued fellowship.

*~ May We All Shine with The Light of Christ in this New Year ~*



We hope you can join us at 9am next Sunday with ... David Fanning & Peter Hall at Gympie, or with Ken Ward at Imbil.

We're planning a special element to our worship services over the next two weeks ... next Sunday in Gympie and on the 9<sup>th</sup> February at Imbil. Please see your invitation provided with today's issue of The Vibe.

## JOY Circle 2025

This year, Joy Circle will be gathering on the ~~last Thursday of each month~~, from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> November. Unless otherwise advised, the group will meet in the CE Room with a start time of 9:30am.

Each month, Jill and Jo organise different, interesting activities winding up with a delectable morning tea. Anyone of any age is very welcome to come along for a terrific time together.

## Tuesday Morning Prayer

What a special time this is! Our dedicated Prayer Warriors meet in the CE room for an hour or so from 8am. We start with a bit of chit-chat and identify prayer needs - needs from within our church family, the broader community and globally. Then we pray and share in Communion. There's no expectation that you pray out loud if that is a concern that keeps you from joining us.

If you can fit this into your life, we would welcome you with open arms. If you can't make it but are aware of a prayer need, please let Joan or Cherylie know.

## **Ship for World Youth**

Mrs Tahlya Doecke of our Imbil congregation has been selected as a delegate to the 2025 Ship for World Youth Program which is being held in Japan.



Ship for World Youth is an international youth exchange and leadership initiative that brings together young leaders from around the world to engage in meaningful discussions, develop their leadership skills, participate in cultural exchanges and enhance their cross-cultural engagement abilities.

Tahlya left for this month-long journey on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. We congratulate her on being selected and ask you to pray that this experience will prove to be an important development opportunity in her life.

There is much more information on SWY's website at [swyaus.org](http://swyaus.org).

## **Ministry Placement Process**

The vacancy of full-time Uniting 4570 Minister, covering both of our Gympie and Imbil congregations, has been advertised by the Synod Placement Team.

Here's a reminder of who Uniting 4570 elected to represent us as Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) members: Ken Ward, Narelle Collins, Keith Brown, Bethany Mahaffey and Noah Collins.

The JNC has an additional 2 members who represent the Mary Burnett Presbytery - Pastor Graham Huth (Presbytery Minister) and Rev. David Ellis.

Please remember to consistently pray for the placement process, for the one God calls to Uniting 4570 and for our seven JNC members. Thank you.

## **2025 Gympie Community Prayer Breakfast**

This year's breakfast is being held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 6:30am, at Gympie's Memorial Park and will include an enjoyable morning of connection, prayer and a delicious BBQ breakfast. Arthur Shepherd, Chaplain of Queensland Police, will be guest speaker, sharing his inspiring story.

The cost is \$10 per person or \$40 for families of five or more. Whilst you will be able to purchase tickets on the morning, the organisers are encouraging the purchase of tickets on-line so they can better plan for catering and seating.

<https://gympie.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/sales>

## **Christian Radio 91.5fm Update**

The radio station has organised **Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers** on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. They are hoping and praying for lots of support.



“As you get older, you become more seasoned and experienced, more careful and cautious. You’re less willing to take risks. That can be good, because you’ve learned from experience. But that also can be bad, because you’re not willing to let the Lord do something fresh and new in your life.” - *Greg Laurie*

Pastor Greg Laurie offers a profound reminder about balancing caution with faith. By stepping out in faith, we create space for God’s transformative work in our lives.

As we embrace the start of a new year, Pastor Greg encourages us to reflect on how we can rely on God’s guidance while remaining open to His plans. Through consistent prayer and intentional scripture reading, we can ensure our lives align with His will – the ultimate path to purpose, peace, and spiritual fulfillment in 2025 and beyond.

**Worship**

**Worship Services...** **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church  
**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](mailto:cherylie@gruc.org)  
[www.gruc.org.au](http://www.gruc.org.au) F: [www.facebook.com/guchurch](https://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



**UNITING 4570**  
**Better together**

**Offering and Attendance Last Week**

Attendance: Adults 65 ♦ Children 2 ♦ Message Not Streamed

Total Week’s Offering: \$2,052.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101 *(Please identify your bank transaction as either ‘Tithe’ or ‘Offering’, ‘Shoeboxes’, etc. Thank you).*