

2nd February 2025

# The VIBE

## Theme: Identity and Mission

### Bible Reading: Luke 3: 21-23, 4: 14-21 NRSV

The story of the baptism of Jesus, with John's baptism of repentance, is found in all four gospels, although told a little differently by each evangelist. Luke's unique contribution is his reference to a significant happening between the baptism and the voice from heaven. Luke tells us Jesus was "praying" (3:21). So while he was praying, *a voice came from heaven* (22).

Who is doing the speaking?

Not Jesus. He was simply listening. Because he was listening, he heard a voice.

*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.* (3:22).

His growing awareness of his unique relationship with God first surfaced in the temple when he said to his parents ...

*Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?* (2:49)

Jesus (and his disciples) will hear these exact same words on the Mount of Transfiguration, again, when Jesus is at prayer (9:28,29).

Knowing who he was, and to whom he belonged, his **identity**, prepared Jesus for the mission to which he was called.

While all four gospels agree that Jesus commenced his ministry in Galilee, it is only Luke that tells us the location for launching his **mission** was his own home synagogue in Nazareth. (4:16). The synagogue though, was not the focused destination for his mission. The recipients of the mission were *the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed.* (4:18,19). No doubt some of these were in the synagogue, but the majority were out there in the community.

The synagogue (like the local church), is the place of prayer - the place where the people of God celebrate their identity as God's children. It is also the place where a commitment to be involved in the mission of God is made and the place from where God's people move to serve in the community and world for which Christ died.

Grace and peace.

David



## Positive91five Bunnings Fundraiser

The radio station has organised **Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers** for **this Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February** and again on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. If you're in the vicinity on those days, it would be great if you could support 91.5fm and their ministry by buying a sausage sanga or two.

## HymnFest

Narelle has organised our first HymnFest for 2025 for **Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February**, starting at **2.30pm** in our Gympie Church. These are enjoyable and popular gatherings ... singing favourite hymns and choruses for an hour or so and then catching up with people over a cuppa. Invite your friends and family.

It would be very helpful if you could bring some afternoon tea to share.

## Joy Circle

Our first JOY Circle gathering for the year will be on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**, meeting in the CE Room from **9.30am**. Come along for fellowship, interesting conversation and an activity (perhaps something new to you) and morning tea.

## 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.

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

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



*Gympie Pastor Graham Huth (Presbytery Minister)*

*Imbil Commissioning Service with Rev.s David & Peter*

- \* **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
- \* **Positive 91five Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser** - this Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February
- \* **Imbil Commissioning Service** - 9am, next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Imbil Church
- \* **HymnFest** - Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm, our Gympie Church
- \* **Combined Churches Prayer Meeting** - Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 6-6.30pm, Gympie Apostolic Church (cnr Old Maryborough & Atkinson Roads)
- \* **JOY Circle** - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am, CE Room
- \* **Gympie Community Prayer Breakfast** - Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30am, Memorial Park

# Prayer for Others

Prayed at Imbil on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Almighty God, how great is your love for us!! Thank you for the many blessings that you pour out on each of us daily—for family, friends and neighbours.

Lord, all of these people who are a part of our lives have different strengths and weaknesses and a variety of needs and problems. Help us to recognise when we can bring into their lives a little of your love. May we be generous with our time, talents and money.

Father God, as we look at the wider world around us, we can see a glimpse of your creativity, your power and your might. The majesty and intricacy of your creation speaks to our hearts of the care and thought you put into everything. But we know too, that we are not looking after your world as we should. Help us to be more thoughtful and actively care for what you have blessed us with.

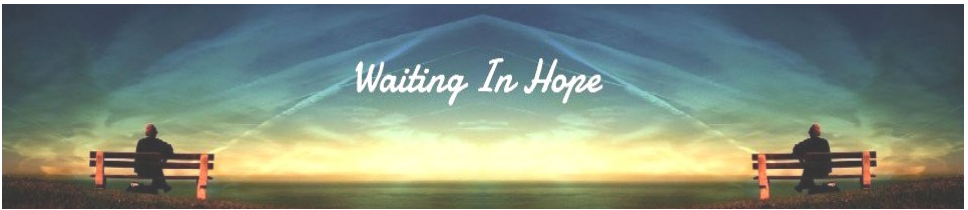
Lord, we see too in this world, so many people who are suffering as a result of natural disasters and the effects of war. We ask that you will show us where we can be of help and that those who are on the ground trying to help in these areas will know your protection. Grant them safety and all the skills and resources they need to bring to the people the best care. Father God, we thank you for the possibility of an easing in the situation in the Middle East. Grant them your peace.

And Heavenly Father, we pray for this beautiful country where we live. Grant us wise and careful leaders at all levels of government. May they not be self-serving, but have a passion for serving people. In our own Mary Valley we are very aware that not everyone is coping with life. We pray for those who are facing hardship and trauma through homelessness, hunger, domestic violence, health issues and more. Use us to bring something of your love into their lives. Show us how, please.

At times we have such a narrow view of just how amazing you are and we try to tell You how things should happen. Forgive us. When we think we know best and try to box you into our limited understanding, surprise us afresh. Open our hearts and minds and grant us the courage to step out of our comfort zones.

We are yours, Lord. Use us we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.



"Wait a minute!" How often have you said, or heard, words like that? And isn't it one of the hardest things in the world to do? Wait! Yet it is one of the most important approaches in the Christian life. Psalm 130 is not a complex passage of Scripture; it is a beautiful expression of devotion to God, but it contains some elements of truth that we need today. Verse 5 tells us what we need to hear: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." Waiting; Waiting in hope!

But the Psalmist begins at a point of quite profound need; perhaps out of our own experience we might be able to identify with him. "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!". If sometimes we associate our worship and our closeness to God with the happier times of our life, I'm sure it is more often true that our deeper experiences emerge when we are pushed to an extremity. Out of the depths of our trauma, our anxiety or illness, our cry goes out to God, and God hears our cry.

**Reflection by Rev Clive W Ayre** ~ *Uniting News Issue of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

**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](http://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 77 ♦ Children 12 ♦ Facebook 61

Total Week's Offering: \$2,603.00 ... 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', 'Shoebboxes', etc. Thank you).