



The VIBE

20th APRIL 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

Theme: Staying Near The Tomb

Bible Reading: John 20:1-18

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. Finding the stone rolled away, she ran and told Peter and the other disciple, probably John, who came to investigate her claim that someone had taken the Lord's body out of the tomb. After agreeing with her claim, they simply returned home.

Mary on the other hand stayed at the tomb weeping. Because she stayed at the tomb, the resurrected Jesus revealed himself to her. This time she went to the disciples with a different story. "I have seen the Lord".

Theme

Mary Magdalene, unlike the other disciples, stayed at the tomb and was personally addressed by the Risen Christ. Sometimes we, like Mary, need simply to stay, to remain close to Jesus until we come to believe in Jesus, until we are given the full Easter faith that we desire. Christians are those who stay close to Jesus in order that the Risen Christ may come close to us.

Prayer (by Rev William Willimon)

Lord Jesus, we gather today loudly, lovingly, lavishly to celebrate your great defeat of death, your grand victory over the forces of sin. We give thanks that you loved us enough not only to die for us but also to rise for us and our salvation.

Enable us to lay aside our doubts, our misgivings, and understandings and bask in the light of your resurrected glory.

Sweep up your church in a great shout of glorious praise this day, this triumphant day that is your great gift to us and the world.

Help us to live so others may see your Easter victory in us. Amen

~ David ~



'The Reverends'

It's David's last service with us today and Peter's on the 4th May (which happens to be his birthday! Also, FYI, David's birthday is on the 10th May!)

Reiterating our sentiments from last Sunday's 'Vibe' - we are all so appreciative of Peter's and David's ministry over these many months. We hope you have the opportunity to speak with them before they set off for a bit of a change.

Plans are underway for our next period of supply ministry. Church Council will let you know once arrangements are finalised.

Christmas Shoebox Collections



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

Joy Circle

Come along to Joy Circle morning - this Thursday **24th April**, from **9.30am** in the CE Room. Our focus will be on the Anzacs - do you have a family member's story to share?



Red Hill Electronic Sign

Well ... the new electronic street sign (in front of our Gympie Church) is almost ready to use. A huge thank you to Church Council and, in particular, to Keith Brown who spent much time and effort getting us here.

In addition to various levels of Uniting Church approvals for this endeavor, the local council had the final say. We are licensed to display information under the Uniting Church umbrella.

Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

Our local churches are meeting at 6.30pm this Tuesday, 22nd April, at the Gympie Church of Christ (57 Horseshoe Bend) ... praying for half an hour and then an opportunity to stay on for some fellowship together.

Mother's Day Remembrance Service

Gympie Cemetery Trust invites you to this special service on Friday, 9th May from 1pm to 2.30pm at the Cassia Gazebo (93 Cartwright Rd. Gympie). The service will be conducted by a representative of the local Minister's Network.

Bookings are essential. Please RSVP to supervisor@gympiecemeterytrust.com.au or phone 5482 2199.



What is the one thing in your life that you regret more than anything? The one thing that you don't share with other people. The thing that if you could, you would go back and re-do or take back? Everyone has something like that. It's the thing that you have begged God to forgive you for, but you haven't quite been able to forgive yourself. There may even be times when you question if God has really forgiven you and you are tempted to go to him time and again just to make sure he knows you are sorry.

DOES JESUS REALLY FORGIVE EVEN THAT?

The day of Jesus' crucifixion and death was an extremely painful one for him - physically and emotionally. The religious leaders felt threatened. Jesus' teachings threatened their belief system, status, power and wealth. They hated Jesus so much, they would stop at nothing to see him dead, despite his innocence.

He was falsely accused, lied about, mocked, spat on, flogged, denied by a close friend, nailed to a cross for all to see. It is inconceivable to us that Jesus died for even those people. Our hearts cry out to God in unbelief and in sorrow for the way they treated our Lord. And yet ...

JESUS FORGIVES EVEN THAT

As Jesus hung on the cross, there were two others who hung beside him. Two men tried on the evidence and convicted of their crimes. One chose to use his last moments to mock and insult Jesus.

The other, in his agony, recognised who Jesus was. It wasn't too late. His sins weren't too big. He cried out to Jesus and confessed the depth of his sin. He knew he was guilty and he also knew that Jesus was perfect and free from sin. He knew that Jesus was the only one who could forgive him.

Jesus, in his own unimaginable agony, shows grace and mercy for others.

The hard truth is that our sin is just as personal to Jesus as were those awful, untrue, accusations thrown at him. Our sins are as offensive and painful to him as the crown of thorns, the flogging, the mocking.

And not just our own sins which we recall with huge regret - there are also the ones we can't or don't name. The little white lies, the gossiping, the jealousy, the judgmental attitude. Sin is sin! It's all the same in Jesus' eyes. It's all personal, all offensive, all painful to our Lord. He suffered and died for all of it.

YES! JESUS CAN FORGIVE IT ALL!

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

An Easter Thankyou

Much preparation has gone into all of our Easter services. Thank you to each and every one of you who has given of your gifts, time and effort, allowing our church family the opportunity to share in a reverent and thoughtful Easter experience.

HymnFest

Sunday 18th May, 2:30pm in our Gympie Church. Bring your friends and family to enjoy singing along to your favourite hymns and we'd appreciate you bringing some afternoon tea to share.

Worship
with us

Next Sunday

Gympie: Rev. Dr. Peter Hall

Imbil: Mrs Narelle Cramb

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie Uniting Church:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church
Imbil Uniting Church: 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 a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250 or join us at 8am of a Tuesday in the CE Room.

**'The stone was rolled away from the door,
not to permit Christ to come out,
but to enable the disciples to go in.'**

Peter Marshall



UNITING 4570
Better Together

Offering and Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 81 ♦ Children 7 ♦ Facebook 41

You can give your tithes & offerings by direct transfer into the church's bank account Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101 (Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', 'Shoeboxes', etc. Thank you).