

Nambour Retirement Village Services

NO VILLAGE SERVICE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

CHURCH	37-39 Coronation Avenue Nambour QLD 4560 opposite Nambour State College
CHURCH EMAIL	nambouruca@gmail.com
FACEBOOK	www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church
WEBPAGE	nambouruniting.org.au
YOUTUBE CHANNEL	nambouruca.youtube

THE BIRTHDAY BOOK FOR THIS WEEK

25	Eva Donaldson
	Lee Goleby
28	Vivian Du

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVA, LEE AND VIVIAN!

Minister & Pastoral Care

Rev Ian Stehbens 0477 160 578

Additional Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson 5441 3381

Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

Church Council Chair

Rev Ian Stehbens 0477 160 578

Church Office: 5441 1135

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: most Tuesdays and Thursdays

AFTER 9AM to 2PM

Jimmy 0411 314 306

Service Roster

FOR TODAY 23rd August 2020 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Minister: Rev Ian Stehbens

Music: Rosemary Ramm

Readers: Daphne Heaton, Lyn Colley

Prayers: Peter Bowden

Data Projector: Christine Bowden

Sound system: Peter Bowden

Offering: Retiring offering will be in
place until further notice

Welcome: Linda & Ian Woodward

No Morning Tea

Attending worship confirms that you do not have COVID-19, or symptoms associated with COVID-19, or awaiting results from a COVID-19 test, or have been to a designated 'hotspot', or have not been in contact with any known or suspected cases of COVID-19, or that you have been in contact with anyone who has travelled from overseas in the past 14 days. You are aware that people aged 70 and over, and people with chronic medical conditions are at a greater risk of serious illness by involvement in public group places.



Nambour Uniting Church

9AM Sunday Worship Service

We are called to be evidence of God's
love breaking into the world

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Not Just A Name Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

The Dutchman, Martinus Beijerinck, late in the 19th century, was the first to use the word virus of certain disease-causing pathogens. Since then it has become a widely-used term all around the world. Whether they take it seriously and alter their behaviour accordingly or not, people everywhere are familiar with the term.

Peter was the first to use the word Messiah for Jesus, and since then, in its Greek-based version of Christ, it has become the most widely-used designation for Jesus everywhere. But people do not always all take it seriously and adjust their lives to its implications. If Jesus is God's Son and Deliverer as the word Messiah suggests, he is to be listened to, responded to, related to in a way that makes us different.

It is to have our thought-patterns and ways of thinking transformed so that we discern God's good, acceptable and perfect will. It is to so undergo a process of change that we do not conform to the widely-accepted patterns of life and thinking that centre on self. We are prepared to be different.

Worship is not just something to be done in church guided by liturgy or as expressed in song. Worship is the offering of the whole self, our physical existence to God – that is our spiritual worship.

- What does it mean to take the idea of virus seriously and adjust our lives accordingly?
- Have we become so familiar with Jesus being called Christ that we have missed the implications for our own lives?
- What are those implications?
- Paul, in Romans 12, suggests that Christians think differently from other people. Is this so? How differently?

Rev Ron Potter

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

How we imagine God is directly related to how we imagine what it means to be a decent person.

For many generations the most highly valued person was the one with greatest power, wealth, and, sometimes, knowledge. So people inevitably imagined God as being like that.

God was then imagined to be as unapproachable and self-obsessed as such people have been. The way to live was to try to get on with the people of influence. The same applied to God.

Keep the commandments! Commandments are imposed and are not to be questioned. They have absolute authority because they allegedly come from absolute authority. People tried to be like their god and, alas, all too often succeeded.

At times in our history, warfare dominated and to win was society's ultimate goal. Justice was understood as involving retribution, through superior power, whilst portraying the enemy as personified evil. Victory vindicated and loving the enemy was an act of treason. Thus, God was corralled to be on one side, and warfare was justified. Just War Theory was embraced for centuries.

The discrediting of militarised language by the Apostle Paul, was undone, and spiritual warfare became a language that sought to convey the Christian message.

When,
JUSTICE is understood as the opposite of MERCY
TRUTH burns and scorches making no room for PEACE
CONTROL becomes the essential in relationships
- then we need to offer ourselves to God, opening our lives to the transformation of the Spirit of Jesus.

Jesus spent much of his ministry, it seems, in a struggle to portray a different way of imagining God which more matched the reality. God is not to be modelled on the aloof king and controlling father, but on the mother looking for a lost coin and the dad running down the road to meet a lost son. The facades of dignity are dropped in favour of affection and caring. It is a hugely different model of God and produces a very different way of handling human life and biblical tradition.

The woman of another ethnic group, historically and culturally despised

The tax collector spurned

The child pushed away

The person committed to his own wealth and status

- are all responded to in a very different way, contrary to the expectation of the culture into which Jesus came.

A mother whose son was tragically killed agreed to allow me to conduct his funeral and the celebration of his life, on the condition that it wasn't a religious service. Yet, to close the celebration she asked that Amazing Grace be played on the bagpipes as the coffin was carried to the hearse. She is not an unbeliever, but a mother that hungers for nitty-gritty love and real hope. As Jesus has revealed, in God's way grace is amazing,

JUSTICE and MERCY meet,

PEACE allows TRUTH to emerge and peace is fulfilled, and

CONTROL is surrendered to SELF-CONTROL,

- for this is what it means to know and live in love.

Love is more demanding than the Law.

As Jesus is the Image of God, so the church (that is we the followers of Jesus) is also intended to be the image of God: *we are called to evidence of God's love breaking into the world.*

This is the essence of being for nitty-gritty Christians, and as we live it you will come to know that God's way is more than acceptable, for the journey is amazing, and life is holy.

Coming to church reminder

Currently, Government regulation limits the number of people attending Church, it is vitally important that you ring Jeanette Warne 54789747 or Mobile 0417780151 or email kybernetes210@gmail.com on the **Wednesday or Thursday before, between the hours of 12noon – 7pm each week** to let her know you are attending. If you have registered with Jeanette and are not able to come, please contact her, even at short notice, so someone who may be on the waiting list can attend. Please be considerate to all members of the Congregation and all those who are responsible for organising our worship services to ensure we are complying to the regulations. We are all doing our best in the circumstances, please continue to pray for our Minister, our Church Council and all our congregational members.