

## Rev Maile Moitika - Minister's Message

### Our world nowadays

There are so many things that happened in our world lately. The people of Tonga recently experienced the worst natural disaster of a volcano eruption followed by a tsunami that destroyed or damaged more than 600 buildings and significantly impacted crops, livestock and fisheries according to the reports that came from Tonga. The good thing was, only about 4 lives lost as a direct result of this tragic event. As always, our foreign neighbour countries like New Zealand and Australia always the first to arrive with humanitarian helps. The building side of the country has been started and despite the destructions and the loss of concrete items, the spirit is high amongst the people of Tonga. In my opinion, we will see a more beautiful Tonga after this. The new houses will be built to endure natural disaster and the landscape will be more directed to help minimise damage that might cause from hurricane and tsunami etc. I am looking forward to a more transform beautiful Tonga after this.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has been started because of the stubbornness of one man Putin. The story of the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt comes to my mind. God gave Pharaoh every opportunity to change his mind; it was Pharaoh's stubbornness that prevented it from changing. Stubbornness against God leads to disobedience. When you stop stubbornly insisting on your own way and begin submitting to God, you may be surprised by the work he will do in your life. I was interested in one of the Historian Commentators from England said about Putin. "Putin is not interested on gaining 40 million people, he is interested in stopping the democracy from growing in the world. He did not want to see people have the opportunity to grow and enjoy life. He is worth more than 200 billion and for a leader to collect all those wealth maybe some from the country funds, while the poor people in his country are so desperate to survive. To me, this is unacceptable and he is not deserved to be a leader. While on the other hand, I admired the leader of Ukraine. He is young and he is full of energy and he said, "I won't leave the country" "We won't turn our back to them, we will face them." To me, he is faithful and a true leader. He joined with the first lady the army getting ready to fight for the freedom of Ukraine from the Oppressor. I remember Saddam Hussein he ran away and hide while his soldiers fight his war. This young leader is so courageous and he shows it by actions. I am sure that his people are so encouraged by his leadership and actions.

The flooding that we experienced in Qld and in Lismore and Ballina are so devastated to many people. What I have learned, that in time like this, there are so many heroes who have risked their life for love of others. One story from Lismore about this man who used his boat to save so many people from the flood. The resilience of the people of Australia is so amazing, where there is flood, drought, hurricane or any natural disaster, they helped each other and once were over, they continue their journey of life. A glance around at our world painful world may make us wish for an escape. But for us Christians, Jesus sends you, if you follow him, into that painful world the same way that God the Father sent him. He has not left you alone. The Holy Spirit lives inside you, protecting, guiding, and teaching you. His Spirit will work through you to tell others of Jesus, ease others' pain, and further God's Work. Thanks to you all, who have helped to build his kingdom on Earth. Every good work is noticed by our Father in Heaven. **Shalom to you all, Rev Maile.**

## An Article from the Sunshine Valley Gazette



**Reverend Maile Molitika** is used to more families and young people in his previous congregation and hopes to even the balance somewhat as Nambour Uniting Church’s new minister. His parishioners during his 10-years at Park Uniting Church in Brisbane were mainly members of the devout Tongan Community from all over Brisbane. “Yes, this is totally different from my previous congregation,” he said.

“Park Church is the biggest Tongan congregation in Brisbane. Nambour is an Anglo congregation. And the youngest person is in their 50s,” he laughed. “The rest are in their 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. But they are very active. Despite their age they are young at heart. I am so amazed to see the spiritual energy of these people despite their age. They still do all the cleaning, maintaining the property and preparing everything for Sundays. “But how much more joy there would be if we could see younger generations take over and relieve the older people. “Covid19 has affected the church in the last two years. Some are not coming back due to ill health and some still worry about getting Covid19.

“My main task remains the same — to look after the spiritual needs of the congregation and help people on their spiritually journey. “At the same time, I’m looking to build the church. I’m hoping to start Sunday School and a youth group and I’m looking for the community’s help with that. Seeing the Nambour High School is opposite the church, maybe there is an opportunity here to start inviting all the neighbours to bring their children to church. “As Covid subsides and we go back to normal I’d like to have a cultural night where we invite people to a community dinner as a way of introducing ourselves and letting people know the Nambour Uniting Church is here.

“This is a beautiful church. But a church is not the house. It’s the people that make the church. The only way this church can continue is if it is refreshed with the younger generations.

“I am still positive and hopeful that this beautiful facility can be rejuvenated and continue to lead people to God.” Rev Maile said he would also aim to help strengthen the community by reaching out to support Nambour’s vulnerable people.

“Of course, there are people with drug and alcohol problems. Maybe we can help them and maybe we can introduce them to a better way of living, leading them to a new life in Christ. Maybe having something different coming into their lives — maybe this is a stepping stone to a better life.” Rev Maile and his wife Siale share a great interest in music. They arrived in Nambour for New Years eve with their daughter and grandson. They have five other children, one in America and four living in Brisbane.

## **Reverend Maile appeals for Tongan tsunami assistance**

The volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami that hit Tonga last month affected 85,000 people, cost the country \$90 million, destroyed or damaged more than 600 buildings and significantly impacted crops, livestock and fisheries, according to the first impact report since the disaster. If anyone would like to help, Nambour Uniting Church Reverend Maile Molitika is leading efforts to support the Tongan community.

His other role is as President of the Brisbane Tonga Community. "Together with Tonga's High Commissioner to Australia, Princess Angelica Halaevalu Mata'aho, we have formed a committee to collect any donations that help build up the country," Rev Molitika said. "The Swire Shipping Company has given us two 20-foot shipping containers every month, so we can fill them with them and they are bearing all the cost to send to Tonga.

"If there are some generous people in the community that can help this Charity it would be much appreciated. We have an account too for those who can deposit straight to the account. "The things that they really needed are tools, building materials, water, canned food, boat equipment, fishing gear, linen, cooking utensils and towels. There are two containers every month starting March, April, and May."

If anyone would like to donate items please contact Rev Maile on 0425 378 174.

**"This is a beautiful church. But a church is not the house.  
It's the people that make the church." - Rev Maile**

## **Mary Burnett Presbytery Invites everyone to the Induction of Pastor Graham Huth**

The Mary Burnett Presbytery, discerned to call **Pastor Graham Huth** as the **Presbytery Minister** for the **Mary Burnett Presbytery** commencing in February 2022.

Please pray for Pastor Graham and his wife Ann-Louise as they have now taken on this new role in the life of the church.

Please pray for Rev Graham and Ann-Louise.

**The Induction Service of Pastor Graham will be at  
Nambour Uniting Church at 7PM on the 11th March 2022,  
and everyone is invited to attend.**

# DAILY PRAYERS

## LOVE IS HIS WORD LOVE IS HIS WAY

### DAY 1

Love is his Word, love is his Way,  
Feasting with friends, fasting alone.  
Living and dying, rising again,  
Love, only love is his way

Dear Lord, we come to you today at the beginning of Lent, a season for reflection, a time to review our own links with you, acknowledging our shortcomings and failures and seeking to come closer to you day by day. Help us to see that in our difficulties, our trials and struggles each day, your love is always there for us - May we hold that close.  
Love is your Word, Love is your Way

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth.

### DAY 2

Love is his Way, love is his Mark,  
Sharing his last Passover feast  
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,  
Love, only love is his Mark.

Loving God, in recent years our world has changed with the arrival of Covid and its damaging effect on us all - bringing fear and despair to many. But we thank you for being with us all the way, inspiring scientists to produce vaccines, encouraging love and care, sacrificially given, by many in your name. Placing your mark upon us.  
Love is your Way, love is your Mark.

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth.

### DAY 3

Love is his Mark, love is his Sign,  
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,  
This is my body, this is my blood,  
Love, only love is his Sign

Loving God, Lent leads us into Easter with its sadness, its anguish, its death - but its joy of new life as well. Help us to change and grow. When we are afraid of what the changes will mean, give us the courage to be part of the changes that Lent brings. Loving Christ, may you place your mark, the sign of the cross, upon us when we come to you in faith and love.  
Love is your Mark, Love is your Sign

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth

### DAY 4

Love is his sign, love is his news,  
Do this he said, lest you forget  
all my deep sorrow, all my life's blood'  
Love, only love, is his News;

Loving God, we all like to receive good news - and you have always given us the best news...Jesus has risen! We believe you are with us every day. And just when fear and doubt might step in, you give us new gifts, new life, new ideas, and new faith for the next day - and all the days to come.  
Good News from you for all of us.  
Love is your Sign, love is your News

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth

## DAY 5

Love is his News, love is his Name  
We are his own, chosen and called,  
Sisters and brothers, cousins and kin,  
Love, only love is his name;

Most merciful and gracious God, we offer you our heartfelt love and praise because your son, Jesus Christ was willing to risk everything for the whole world - even for us! As we journey through Lent we need to pause and reflect on what sort of witnesses we are in our community. Are we sharing your love with one and all? Do we share your good News and your precious Name with others?

**Love is your News, love is your Name**

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth

## DAY 6

Love is his name, love is his law,  
Hear his command, all who are his;  
'Love one another I have loved you'  
Love, only love is his law.

Loving God, as we continue on our Lenten journey, day by day, help us remember the journey Jesus took - with his disciples and with the ordinary fisher folk They were on a journey too and had a lot to learn along the way. Who was this man? What did his wonderful words really mean? And where was he leading them? How could love be a law?  
**Love is your Name Love is your Law.**

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth

## DAY 7

Love is his law, love is his Word,  
Love of the Son, Father and Word,  
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,  
Love, only love is his word

Loving God, we thank you that as we journey with you through Lent, you are changing us, transforming us in your likeness. May we be strengthened with renewed courage and faith to face the world in your name. Times are difficult at the moment, both on the world stage and in the local scene and we ask to know your presence and your power and peace as we live each day with you.  
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,  
Love. only love is your Word

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
Better than splendour and wealth.

### LOVE IS HIS WORD

TIS 534

Luke Cunningham

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### Minister

Rev Maile Molitika 0425 378 174

### Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

### Nambour Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

### Church Council Officers

Ian Woodward - Chair

Helen Staines - Secretary

Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer

Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn

Property & Compliance

Church & Office: 5441 1135

37 Coronation Drive NAMBOUR QLD 4560

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: open most Tuesdays and Thursdays

9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

# *Clouded Faith*



There is nothing quite like the experience of flying on a really wet day. I recall one occasion when the airport was totally engulfed in a thick, watery soup. All incoming aircraft were on instrument landings. Departing planes were skiing down the runway, leaving a plumage of white water behind them. Then it was our turn. As the plane taxied down the runway with increasing speed, a spray of water spumed past the windows. Then we were in the soup itself, flying through dark, thick clouds. For a short time our plane was totally engulfed by its watery environment.

Then, quite suddenly, we burst into the sunshine! There, at 30,000 feet we were flying through clear blue sky, in brilliant sunshine, with a fluffy carpet of cloud far below us. I never cease to reflect on the parabolic nature of that experience. For a while, from the earth-bound perspective, the sun had ceased to exist, totally obscured by the clouds. The reality is that it was there all the time.

Even though we could not see it, our earth was being bathed in the radiance of the faithful, seemingly eternal sun, providing light, warmth and radiating life. The reality is that the sun is always there, whether we can actually see it or not.

Some years ago, I read the story of the British envoy, Terry Waite, who was imprisoned in Beirut for 1,700 days, spent almost entirely in solitary confinement. Waite was a person of incredible perseverance and faith, and clung to hope throughout his long ordeal. One of the things which sustained him throughout this difficult time were the words which were scribbled on the walls of a Nazi prison cell by an incarcerated Jew.

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These words have become part of my own faith perspective, providing strength and hope, and courage in difficult times.

They read:

***I believe in the sun when it is not shining;  
I believe in love, when the feeling is not;  
I believe in God, even when He is silent.***

These simple words express a philosophy of life which can sustain, support and encourage us through some of life's most difficult circumstances. ***I believe***, even though I cannot see. ***I believe*** in God, even though I cannot prove his existence or feel his Presence.

***I believe***, as surely as I believe in the reality of the sun on a cloudy day.

Faith is like the wings of an aircraft which lifts us above the dark moods of despair, depression and doubt, to believe in something we cannot physically see!

**Rev Graham Warne**

The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation. While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace, we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other.

As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened, then sent out again for a missional purpose. In times such as these, this copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE**

This land on which we live and worship is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people, traditional custodians under God of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland.

We pay our respects and pray for their elders and all their descendants.

We are thankful that we can share with them in our community and nation.

We reaffirm our commitment to care for the land and participate in the reconciling journey, for God requires this of us.

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

## MARCH 2022

PLEASE CLICK ON THE READING LINKS BELOW  
TO ACCESS THE VERSES OF THE DAILY BIBLE READINGS  
ON THE VANDERBILT LECTIONARY WEBSITE

Tuesday, March 1, 2022: [Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1; Acts 10:23b-33](#)  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022: [Ash Wednesday](#)  
[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)  
Thursday, March 3, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34](#)  
Friday, March 4, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42](#)  
Saturday, March 5, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36](#)  
Sunday, March 6, 2022: [First Sunday in Lent](#)  
[Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13](#)  
Monday, March 7, 2022: [Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6](#)  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022: [Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21](#)  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022: [Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6](#)  
Thursday, March 10, 2022: [Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12](#)  
Friday, March 11, 2022: [Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20](#)  
Saturday, March 12, 2022: [Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39](#)  
Sunday, March 13, 2022: [Second Sunday in Lent](#)  
[Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35; Luke 9:28-36, \(37-43a\)](#)  
Monday, March 14, 2022: [Psalm 105:1-42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12](#)  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022: [Psalm 105:1-42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022: [Psalm 105:1-42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31](#)  
Thursday, March 17, 2022: [Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11](#)  
Friday, March 18, 2022: [Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6](#)  
Saturday, March 19, 2022: [Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45](#)  
Sunday, March 20, 2022: [Third Sunday in Lent](#)  
[Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9](#)  
Monday, March 21, 2022: [Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11](#)  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022: [Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16](#)  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022: [Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21](#)  
Thursday, March 24, 2022: [Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5](#)  
Friday, March 25, 2022: [Annunciation of the Lord](#)  
[Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45; Psalm 40:5-10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38](#)  
Friday, March 25, 2022: [Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15](#)  
Saturday, March 26, 2022: [Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10](#)  
Sunday, March 27, 2022: [Fourth Sunday in Lent](#)  
[Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)  
Monday, March 28, 2022: [Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8](#)  
Tuesday, March 29, 2022: [Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10](#)  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022: [Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17](#)  
Thursday, March 31, 2022: [Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24](#)

CHURCH EMAIL

[nambouruca@gmail.com](mailto:nambouruca@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church](http://www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church)

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[nambouruca.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnambouruca)

WEBSITE

[nambouruniting.org.au](http://nambouruniting.org.au)

2022 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website