

Rev Maile Molitika - Minister's Message

The Light of Hope

Light is very important in our journey of life. Without light, there is no life on Earth.

We all know that the Sun is the source of life. When we accepted our call to Nambour, we were looking forward for new things. We expected a good manse and nice and kind neighbours. We expected to meet new people in the church and also the community. We lived in Moorooka close to the Highway and it was always busy with noises, the sounds of the semi-trailer trucks, the police and the ambulance sirens always busy. We expected a very quiet neighbourhood. When we arrived, we were so happy because most of the things that we hope for are available.

The first thing we do in a new place, is to make sure that we will be looking after the place like our very own. So planting a new garden and looking after the place is always our priorities. I make sure that I allow the sun to shine on my plants for sustenance. We know that people will always be coming to the manse and the manse will have to be looking in order and beautiful for all visitors.

And although Siale knew about 'climbing' the Manse's stairs would be a challenge every time, she still managed to follow our life to Nambour!

So, despite all the obstacles that we experience in life, our hope never fails.

Now the third appearance of Jesus to his disciples had really encouraged me. "Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore." The disciples toiled all night for nothing, but in the morning, they encountered the Light of hope and they were successful. In psalm 30:5b - "weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" We are reminded that sadness and problems are temporary, but those who put their trust in the Lord will always find there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Jesus wants us to be filled with hope not just because it points us to a brighter tomorrow, but because it changes the quality of our lives today. Hopeless maybe the saddest word in our language. Despair is the enemy of our souls. It can paralyse us, halt our progress, and cause us to lose our way.

But hope awakens us like a light shining in the darkness. Christ is the source of Life for all Christians, we will never fear to face tomorrow because he lives.

Jesus, light of the world Rev Shane Kammermann

Rev Shane Kammermann reflects on the life-giving light of Jesus, illuminating the darkest places in a broken world and surprising and blessing us beyond comprehension.

The first words of God recorded in the biblical narrative are; “Let there be light”. From those first words, creation emerges with goodness, order, purpose and life extending right down through the ages.

A history that includes the dark chapters of broken relationship with God, evil, suffering and ultimately the coming of Jesus the Messiah and a new beginning as the eternal Word and Light of God is incarnate in human history.

The Apostle Paul, reflecting on the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection, tells us that the same God who spoke those first words has now shines in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus.

Paul is saying that in Jesus, the life-giving glory of God is present in the hearts of human beings. But he doesn’t say that the light of God is present only in the hearts of those who are good or those of faith. Just as the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all flesh, so the glory of God has been shone in the hearts of all humanity in the presence of Jesus.

Jesus may be rejected, his presence mocked or contested. His hand at work is hidden, denied or suppressed, but the risen Lord is present in all the world.

Our view of Jesus can be so small! His good news may not be experienced as good news to everyone, but his presence is good news nonetheless. Paul (Saul) on his way to persecute Christians certainly came to know this when Jesus met him on the road to Damascus.

Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground and heard Jesus speaking to him (Acts 9:1-20).

A theophany (a visible manifestation to humankind of God) very much like the various revelations of God to his people in the old covenant — light, and the gracious word of God!

Rev Shane Kammermann is a Minister of the Word living in Cairns. He has been the minister at North Church Uniting Church on the Northern Beaches of Cairns, and this year is full-time hospital chaplain to the Cairns hospitals.

Word Study 6: *martus* (Witness)

The word *martus* (noun) and its family occurs over 170 times in the New Testament. The underlying verbal form (*martureo*) means “to give testimony”, “to bear witness, to give evidence”.

Fundamentally, the word means to “bear witness in favour of another”, that is, to confirm or corroborate that what has been said is true.

There are some interesting usages in Romans 1:9 and Philippians 1: 8 where God is called as their witness, namely that they are indeed telling the truth (see also 2 Cor 13:1).

The word takes on a more significant meaning when it is used in a legal sense. In court, a “witness” is one who gives testimony under oath before a judge. This “testimony” (*marturia*) then becomes “corroborative evidence” (*marturesis*). Thus the word comes to have the meaning of evidence or proof (*marturion*). In other words, our Christian life becomes the living proof or trustworthy evidence to the reality of it God's presence in the world (see Luke 24:48, Acts 1:8, 13:31, etc).

One of the most significant occurrences is found in John 15:26 & 27. In Jesus' final words to his Disciples, he assures them that the Holy Spirit will come to equip them for their ministry after his departure. The Spirit will bear witness (*martureo*) concerning Christ.

However, the testimony is extended further as Jesus adds, “an *you shall bear witness (martureo)* that you have been with me from the beginning” (v.27). The Disciples witness to Christ will be made in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). This commission is repeated again in Acts 1:8 where its geographic boundaries are given specifically. Thus the church was been entrusted with the task of being “witness to the Resurrection of Christ” (see Acts 2:31, 32; 3:15; 4:33; 10:39-41).

In a persecuted church *martus* became one who witnessed through their death, giving the word the meaning of “martyr”. The title **Martyr**, then, is derived historically from the basic meaning of giving testimony, especially through one's faithfulness unto death (Acts 22:20).

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. 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.

CHRIST – THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD DAILY PRAYERS

DAY 1

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness sinning-
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, Shine on me

AND.....Let your Light shine
On the leaders of the nations as they make
decisions about international relationships,
especially on the leaders of Russia, China,
Iran, Yemen and Ukraine:
Our God of the whole world, people
everywhere are reaching out to you in fear
and alarm. They see what Russia is doing
and they wonder whether their country
might be attacked and taken over. We pray
your light will shine all over the world and
we will all know your safety and peace.

*Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children*

DAY 2

Christ is the world's true light,
he and none other,
born in our darkness, he became our brother,
if we have seen him, we have seen the
Father, Glory to God on high

AND...Let your Light shine
On the leaders of the Church as they make
decisions about their congregations and the
best way forward as they cope with our
changing world.
The advent of Covid brought many changes
to the way we have been able to conduct
our worship. But Lord, we have needed your
presence with us more and more - please
let your light continue to shine day by day
in our churches and homes.

*Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children*

DAY 3

Lead kindly light,
amid the encircling gloom,
lead thou me on,
the night is dark, and I am far from home,
lead thou me on,
keep thou my feet,
I do not ask to see the distant scene -
one step enough for me.

AND...Let your Light shine
On teachers, teaching assistants,
administrative staff and students as they
settle back into schools:
It has been a difficult time for teachers as
well as students with the disruption of
classes in so many schools. Some also have
been damaged by floods so school has taken
on a very different form for many children.
We pray your light will shine in every school
as they reopen and teachers are able to
meet up with their students once again.

*Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children.*

DAY 4

Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to every heart
He comes! He comes!

AND...Let your Light shine
On those making decisions concerning the
health and welfare of the people - the
vaccination programme, regular checks and
the future management of the overall
health of everyone. Covid has challenged
our established systems and we need to let
your Light shine on us as we move ahead.

*Let your light shine,.
and bring hope to your children.*

DAY 5

The Lord is my Light,
My light and salvation,
In God I trust, in God I trust.
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

AND... Let your light shine on those who find life difficult - for whatever reason, maybe health, unhappy relationships, difficult children, unemployment, shortage of food for the family, feeling unwell, loneliness, isolation - Lord, let your Light shine on them and place us there with you, offering help in your name.

*Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children*

DAY 6

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light, inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the ancient of days
Almighty, victorious,
your great name we praise.

AND... Let your light shine on those who have been affected by the recent floods.
Life has been turned upside down in a most destructive way. Some homes have been destroyed completely while others have been damaged with a tremendous sense of loss for whole families. Thankfully there have been offers of help from the community and government but they need more than that - so we pray your Light will shine into every home and community bringing your peace and hope to them all.

AND.... *Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children*

DAY 7

Shine, Jesus, shine.
Fill our land with the Father's glory,
Blaze spirit, blaze, fill our hearts on fire,
Flow, river, flow
Fill the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your spirit, Lord,
and let there be Light.

AND... Let your light shine
It is the light that shines in
the darkness of our world
The light that searches
the darkness of our hearts,
The light that banishes
the shadows that surround us
The light that gives us peace and hope.
The Light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has never put it out
O God, every day you offer us choices;
ours is the decision between good and evil,
the path of righteousness or the road to
destruction. Thank you for shining the light
which shows us the good and true way
through your Son.

AND.... *Let your light shine,
and bring hope to your children*

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

Resilience!



The devastation is unlike anything we have ever seen!
We have seen scene after scene of bombed out apartments,
streets littered with war debris and the grey dust of
destruction is everywhere.

The streets are empty of people, devoid of life.
Yet, did you see them?

There amidst the grey, barren, deserted streets were **tulips!**
Bright, colourful, resilient! Nobody had told them there was a
war going on, so the tulip did what it had always done:
it flowered, providing colour, beauty and hope
to an otherwise barren landscape.
Once again, nature is teaching us a lesson in resilience.
That's Ukraine!

But it is not only nature which is resilient. Look at its people.
This clip was sent to me by one of my internet sleuthing
friends. It is quite mind boggling, and heart stopping:
In the midst of all the destruction is the Zelenskyy family!
Like tulips, their humanity is flowering with incredible
courage, and strength amid such formidable circumstances. continued next page...

CHURCH EMAIL

nambouruca@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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

WEBSITE

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

continued...



I am deeply humbled, gut-wrenched, overwhelmed by such beautiful people, bringing inspiration not only to their own people, but to the whole world.

People are asking, as I also ask myself,
Where is God in this horrible mess?

Why doesn't God do something?

Yet, God is indeed there, as God has always been, right in the middle of our human messes.

God was there in the Holocaust.

God was there at the Somme.

God is indeed with us in our deepest distress.
How else could anyone respond with such faith and courage?

I remember what one of our recent Ministers reminded us: *we are Easter people!* Easter reassures us that life is stronger than death, light is greater than darkness, that bright hope shines through the most-bleak circumstance.

Dear Friends, we are one with Ukraine through faith. We are one in heart and spirit. When they suffer, so do we. When they cry, so do we. When they grieve, so do we. Let us then remember the tulip: a small, tiny sign of grace amidst suffering. Lift up your eyes and bow your knees; please join in me in praying,

Eternal light, shine in my heart
Eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
Eternal power, be my support;
Eternal wisdom, make me wise.
Eternal life, raise me from death;
Eternal brightness, help me see;
Eternal Spirit, give me breath;
Eternal Saviour, come to me.

Until by your most costly grace,
invited by your holy word,
at last, I come before your face
to know you, my Eternal God.

Lord, have mercy on us!

(A contemporary translation by Christopher Idle of the words of Alcuin, a French Monk serving under Charlemagne, ca 735-804; TiS 548)

Rev Graham Warne

DAILY BIBLE READINGS MAY 2022

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

- Sunday, May 1, 2022: [Third Sunday of Easter](#) Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14;
[John 21:1-19](#)
- Monday, May 2, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31
- Tuesday, May 3, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); Ezekiel 1:26-2:1; Acts 26:1-18
- Wednesday, May 4, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11
- Thursday, May 5, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); Ezekiel 11:1-25; Revelation 5:1-10
- Friday, May 6, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); Ezekiel 20:39-44; Revelation 6:1-7:4
- Saturday, May 7, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); Ezekiel 28:25-26; Luke 12:29-32
- Sunday, May 8, 2022: [Fourth Sunday of Easter](#) Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17;
[John 10:22-30](#)
- Monday, May 9, 2022: [Psalm 100](#); Ezekiel 37:15-28; Revelation 15:1-4
- Tuesday, May 10, 2022: [Psalm 100](#); Ezekiel 45:1-9; Acts 9:32-35
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022: [Psalm 100](#); Jeremiah 50:17-20; John 10:31-42
- Thursday, May 12, 2022: [Psalm 148](#); Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; Revelation 10:1-11
- Friday, May 13, 2022: [Psalm 148](#); Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 11:15
- Saturday, May 14, 2022: [Psalm 148](#); Daniel 7:27; Revelation 11:16-19
- Sunday, May 15, 2022: [Fifth Sunday of Easter](#) Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6;
[John 13:31-35](#)
- Monday, May 16, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42; Acts 11:19-26
- Tuesday, May 17, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); 2 Samuel 1:4-27; Acts 11:27-30
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-28
- Thursday, May 19, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 15:36-41
- Friday, May 20, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); Proverbs 2:6-8; Acts 16:1-8
- Saturday, May 21, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); Proverbs 2:9-15; Luke 19:1-10
- Sunday, May 22, 2022: [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
[Revelation 21:10 to 22:5](#); John 14:23-29; John 5:1-9
- Monday, May 23, 2022: [Psalm 93](#); 1 Chronicles 12:16-22; Revelation 21:5-14
- Tuesday, May 24, 2022: [Psalm 93](#); 2 Chronicles 15:1-15; Revelation 21:15-22
- Wednesday, May 25, 2022: [Psalm 93](#); 2 Chronicles 34:20-33; Luke 2:25-38
- Thursday, May 26, 2022: [Ascension of the Lord](#) Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Psalm 93;
[Ephesians 1:15-23](#); Luke 24:44-53
- Friday, May 27, 2022: [Psalm 97](#); Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 22:6-9
- Saturday, May 28, 2022: [Psalm 97](#); Exodus 33:18-23; John 1:14-18
- Sunday, May 29, 2022: [Seventh Sunday of Easter](#) Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
[Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#); John 17:20-26
- Monday, May 30, 2022: [Psalm 29](#); Exodus 40:16-38; Acts 16:35-40
- Tuesday, May 31, 2022: [Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth](#) 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113;
[Romans 12:9-16b](#); Luke 1:39-57
- Tuesday, May 31, 2022: [Psalm 29](#); 2 Chronicles 5:2-14; Acts 26:19-29