

PENTECOST 4
16/6/24
CAVES BEACH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Awabakal people owners of the land where we gather today and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their connection to Country and their role in caring for and maintaining Country over thousands of years. May their strength and wisdom be with us today.”

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 20:7)

Some people trust in influence and in who they know.

We trust in the power of a loving God.

Some people trust in money and in property.

We trust in the power of a loving God.

Some people trust in health that does not falter.

We trust in the power of a loving God.

Some people trust in a life without an ending.

We trust in the power of a loving God.

Opening Prayer

So many different sorts of people are gathered to worship you, O God:

different in age and in outlook, different in background and in occupation, together in giving thanks.

We have so many different feelings as we gather to worship you, O God:

downhearted and lacking confidence, worried and depressed, together in hope.

We have so many different ways of following Jesus, as we gather to worship you, O God:

practical and compassionate, spiritual and prayerful, together as disciples.

We have so many different visions for the faith community, as we gather to worship you, O God:

focusing on the local community, witnessing through music, serving the global church, together in Christ's love. Amen.

HYMN 28 God is our strength and refuge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA0zJnW1Rr8>

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & CONFESSION

Holy God, you do give us cause to sing your praises for you bless our lives each and every day, sometimes in small and what might seem to be - at the time - almost insignificant ways, other times blessings are so evident that we cannot keep quiet about them. We have done nothing to deserve such blessings yet - through Jesus' sacrificial love and the gift of his life in us, you embrace our lives with newness in ways far beyond our imagining. Help us to live out of that newness in ways which are pleasing to you and which reflect the depth of your care which we experience in and through Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

Pause for a time of reflection

Above all, we recognise how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

Forgive us when we fail to plant any seeds of faith in the lives of others;
the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;
the times when we have denied others the opportunity to grow their faith through our lack of interest or involvement;
the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, so that our faith grows strong and vigorous, bearing the fruit of your mercy, your love, and your undying life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As the Apostle Paul wrote: " if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" The good news therefore is this: in Jesus Christ we are made new, we are loved, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION – BECH ARTHUR & READING - 1 Corinthians 13

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SERMON Rod Pattenden

HYMN 147 To God be the glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-15v9iworAU>

COMMISSIONING

The Uniting Church cares for the world we live in, for all people, all creatures and all creation. We recognise God’s call to seek justice and equality, to build communities based in love and fairness, and to be a source of light, hope and integrity. We seek to work for the common good and fully participate in the communities we are part of.

We are grateful that today we commission Rebecca Arthur to the role of Community Engagement Worker based in the Caves Beach Uniting Church. We see in her the gifts and graces that express our hopes and aspiration for faith, hope and justice to be present in our regional community.

The Minister asks Rebecca the following question:

In your role as community engagement worker, will you commit yourself to serve alongside the members of the Caves Beach Uniting Church and its minister and office holders to the best of your ability?

And will you uphold the values of the Uniting Church and share in the love and purposes of God as we work together for a compassionate and just community in which all people belong and are able to reach their full potential?

I will.

The community stand.

Will you, the members of this community accept Rebecca Arthur in her role as community engagement worker. Will you pray for her, support and encourage her in her work?

We will

Prayer of Commissioning

Let us Pray: Creator God, we thank you that in every age you have chosen people to be agents of change and hope in the wider community.

We acknowledge Rebecca Arthur in the role of community engagement worker and ask that you would empower her in all she does, granting her the resources of wisdom, humour, hope and joyfulness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Greetings from The Hunter Presbytery Jenny Mathieson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ!

From Proverbs 9: 10:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

God wants us to live in His grace, rely on His strength, and put hope in His unfailing love.

If we were capable of handling everything that came our way, how would others ever realise that the Lord's strength is what makes us strong.

Let us pray, Creator God, we ask you to open our hearts to the wonder of creation.

And recognise that all things come from you.
Help us to recognise your gifts and in others and in ourselves.
And may your sustaining spirit encourage and inspire us.
And that we may seek a gentler and more sustainable lifestyle
that honours ever more your gifts in creation.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.

From Philippians 1: 9-11: This our prayer for everyone in the world that
your love may abound more
and more in the knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may all be able
to discern
what is best and that we may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
so we will be
filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the
glory and praise of God.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the world to be free and that there be an end to poverty,
Lord, we pray for peace in all nations and throughout the world.
We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony
between nations.
That there will be an end to wars and conflict.
Lord, in your mercy hear, our prayers.

This week for the Hunter Prayer Diary is for the Maitland Region - Bolwarra
Uniting Church.
Bolwarra Uniting Church meets each Sunday at 9am with a regular
attendance of approximately 20 people and concludes with fellowship over
a cuppa in the hall afterwards.
Our services are mostly traditional which reflects the
older demographics of the congregation.
We are trying new things to build our church and we are finding people in
our community are showing interest.
Our leaders are stepping up and taking occasional services with a modern
twist with the support from
Rev. Neil Smith. The leaders are also working with Rev. Rod Pattenden to
develop a Sunday evening
service each month.

Lord, we pray for the Leaders of the Bolwarra Uniting Church and Rev. Neil Smith as they work together to progress the church. We pray for Rev. Rod Pattenden as he works with the Leaders to hold a monthly evening service and we pray that we are able to interest the younger generations in the community to come along. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

May the feet of God walk with you,
And his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
And his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
And his breath give you life.
May the child of God grow in you,
And his love bring you home.

In the precious name of your beloved son,
our amazing Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Please join me in singing the Lord's prayer.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE OFFERING

We live in God's generous world. Let us live and give generously.
God of goodness,
it is easy to think that the smallness of our lives and our resources
can do little in a huge world of pain and brokenness,

but your words tell us it is not true.
Even what we give here,
even the giving of our time and energy shapes the world for good.
Amen.

HYMN 409 O breath of life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3bsgoPjcg4>

BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers,
friends of Jesus,
lovers of justice and truth,
children of God.

You are called to be seeds in the world,
to give yourselves to love and to care,
to hope and to joy.

You are called to be alive in the world
with your eyes wide open!

Go in the hope of the God who made you.

Go in the joy of the God who goes alongside you.

Go in the love of the God who always has and always will dwell in you.

Amen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liH_HdkWs74