

The Banora Pointer



Don't be Afraid As The Lord Is With You

We hope you enjoy your time acknowledging the Lord's direction and support in these trying times.

Preacher: Rev. Aaron Moad

Sunday 29 August 2021

Pentecost 14

Walking on Water



Matthew 14:22-33

Our Mission: to love God and love our neighbours

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledge the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Banora Point Uniting Church

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Message from Reverend Aaron Moad

From this week's reading (Matthew 14:22-33) we could focus either on Peter's faith (or lack thereof), or we could focus on the conclusion that the disciples come to at the end of the story, that Jesus is the Son of God. They are both true and valid concepts to focus on, but I think there is a question that is so often overlooked - why was Jesus walking on the water?

Could it be that Jesus walked on the water because it was the fastest way of getting to his disciples who needed him. Jesus saw that his closest friends, his dearest companions, the disciples whom he loved very much were in trouble and their trouble, their need overcame Jesus' need to be alone and he went to them in the quickest way he could, he walked to them on the water. Jesus went to great lengths to rescue his disciples from a dangerous situation.

Matthew wrote his Gospel during a time when the early church was struggling to survive. It wasn't an easy time for the church. There were people that were against the early followers of Jesus. In some cases, even their own family were against them. The church, the body of Christ, has often been in a similar position as the 12 disciples in our reading - struggling to move forward when the world is against them. The church has often existed and lived within a storm.

It may even feel like world and circumstances are against us now at Banora Point Uniting Church preventing us from moving forward. It might feel like there is a storm raging around us. But in adversity is precisely when the church can be at its best. We may need to ask ourselves some hard questions.

How can we get the Gospel message out to a society that seems to be apathetic or even hostile to the mere mention of Jesus?

How can we let the world know that the Gospel message is vitally important to our culture, when our voice is just one of a multitude of voices competing for people's attention?

How can we meet the needs of the people in our local community during a time of restrictions and lockdowns?

Do we even know what our local community needs right now?

How can we be Christ's loving presence to our neighbour right now?

We may be in the middle of a storm, but just like those disciples in the boat, we are not alone. We need to rely on each other and depend on our loving God.

Jesus is the Immanuel which means God with us, and he promised he would be with us to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20).

Remember Jesus is always with us, God loves us and will come to us in our darkest time. We just need to let him.

May the grace and peace of God which passes all human understanding be with you now and for ever more.

Rev. Aaron

A Message From Elizabeth

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

This week we welcome a new season – Spring! The themes of Spring are ones of rebirth and renewal. Spring also refers to love, hope, youth and growth. Here at BPUC I consider we too are entering a new season - one of renewal and regeneration. Please join me in praying and listening to what God has planned for us, as we seek to regenerate anew.

Thanks to Rev Aaron for preparing and sending out daily devotions. In these times of restrictions and no face to face worship, these devotions will be a great way we can stay connected.

Church Council/Elders held our August meeting via zoom on Monday evening, 23/08/2021. We embraced the technology available to us, so that we didn't have to further postpone our meeting. In fact, we even learnt some new skills by using emoji reactions within the meeting. Thanks to all Councillors/Elders for having a growth mindset. Thanks to our Council Secretary, Terryll for providing an update from our meeting (see below).

Audrey Biggs led us in a devotion about “honour to God”. Something that resonated with all of us was Audrey's reference to that well known song from Godspell...

*Day by day
Oh, Dear Lord
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day*

What will your prayer be as we enter Spring?

God's blessings to all

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

Rosters – Help Needed

Please let Janice know if you can help with Greeting and Signing In, you don't have to use laptop; Cleaning or any other rostered duties. We really need more people to 'share the load'. Thank you for helping.

Many hands make light work – So thank in advance for your help.

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 9am
	CWCI Bible Study 10am
	Thursday Evening Bible Study 6:30pm

Church Roster

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>
Communion Prep	- - - - -	- - - - -
Organist	- - - - -	- - - - -
Pianist	- - - - -	- - - - -
Greeter	- - - - -	- - - - -
Bible Reader	- - - - -	- - - - -
Prayer	- - - - -	- - - - -
Morning Tea	- - - - -	- - - - -
Hall Set Up	- - - - -	- - - - -
Cleaning	- - - - -	- - - - -

If you are unable to do your roster, please organize a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.

Church Council/Elders Meeting

Please see points from our recent Church Council meeting.

- The Pastoral Care Team will facilitate small group meetings with Rev. Aaron
- We will once again participate in the 'Operation Christmas Child' program through the Samaritans Purse Organisation. We will need to have boxes in by October. Watch this space!
- Sunday sermon, message and Bible readings are now being recorded by Rev. Aaron due to lock down and can be accessed on the link found in the BPUC email.
- Daily devotions prepared by Rev. Aaron are now available via email.
- Janice Monk is still trying to fill rosters for Sunday morning Greeters and church cleaning. We are needing volunteers for these tasks even if only once a month. Please speak to Janice or any Church Council member if you can assist.

Tithes

Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch or Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church

(Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611

Account No: 10120762