



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 12 February 2023



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Good morning,

To be honest I have a love-hate relationship with laws and commandments, I guess I don't like being told what to do. I suspect it's probably true for many of us. We all know how important laws are and we understand that we need them to stop chaos. But I'm pretty sure most of us don't like being told what to do, and when we're given rules we try to find some wiggle room, a way to bend them or a way to get around them.

For most of us, our introduction to "the law" was early in our lives when we learned the 10 Commandments, probably before we even knew what they meant. When I first learned them, I didn't think they were a big deal. I didn't even know any other gods to worship. I certainly didn't have any craven idols hidden up in my bedroom – I'm pretty sure my Star Wars figures didn't count, I wasn't planning on killing anybody, and I didn't really even know what adultery or coveting meant. So apart from that troublesome commandment about honouring my mother and father, I think I was pretty good with the 10 Commandments. There's an awful lot of wiggle room there.

I like simplicity, I loved it when Jesus made things simpler. For example the genius of summarising thousands of years and hundreds of laws into "love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind" and "love your neighbour as yourself". However, I have to say, as brilliant a summary of the law that is, that second part still has a bit of wiggle room. That is until you remember what Jesus says at the last supper, he says "I give you a new commandment – love one another as I have loved you." "Love one another as I have loved you."



That is what Jesus meant when he said love your neighbour it is a perfect summary of the Law of the kingdom of heaven. Eight beautiful words that says it all. No wiggle room there.

In our reading (Matthew 5:21-37) Jesus says "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not murder' – But I say don't be angry and don't insult your brothers and sisters. You have heard it said do not commit adultery – I tell you do not lust. You have heard that you should not swear an oath of truth in God's name; I tell you swear no oaths at all – tell the truth always. And finally, if your eye causes you to sin, pull it out and throw it away."

It sounds complicated, but Jesus is trying to help us understand what God's law means – what Jesus is doing is changing our understanding of what God meant when he gave us those laws – moving it from something judged from the outside to showing us how what's inside affects us, and our relationships with those around us. It isn't about murder – it's about the anger and hate that builds inside us. It isn't about adultery – it's about the lust that disrespects people and turns them into objects. It's always about love.

What Jesus is teaching us, is that while God's law was literally written in stone, it was never meant to be rigid. What Jesus is teaching us is God's law starts in our hearts.

So, there is a place in our lives for laws and commandments, with or without wiggle room, but the greatest commandment doesn't begin with "you shall not" It begins with "Love." Love God and love one another.

Blessings Rev Aaron.

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Elders/Church Council 7pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Bible Study Group 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions	19 February 1.30pm
Mainly Music	21 February 9.30am
Men's Breakfast	25 February 8am
Craft Club	3 March 9am
Pastoral Care Meeting	6 March 10am
Fellowship Lunch	8 March 11.45am
Elders/Church Council Meeting	14 March 7pm

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elders	Elizabeth & Neil	Neil & Jill
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Lorraine S & Daphne	Joan C & Patti
Bible Readers	Stephanie & Joyce	Yesha & Lumiere
Morning Tea	Pat & Denise	Stephanie & Dorothy McA
Hall Set Up	Messy Church	Walter & Neil
Cleaning	Messy Church	Aaron & Jane

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

Uniting World's Lent Event

Amongst the chaos – the hustle and bustle of a new year, global conflict, poverty, pandemic and climate change – challenges and distractions can feel overwhelming. But life isn't always meant to be this way.

As it says in Ecclesiastes 7:29 (GNB):

"This is all that I have learnt: God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves very complicated."

Now more than ever, we need to be living mindfully, refocusing, and training our hearts towards what really matters.

Lent is an opportunity to disrupt our everyday routines by living more simply, taking up a spiritual discipline or just being more intentional about our lives and habits.

Many choose to give up food, social media, chocolate or coffee, while others commit to journaling or daily prayer.

We want to help you make this Lent a meaningful one, giving you the chance to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others. For more information please see www.unitingworld.org.au/lent-event-is-coming

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

- Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527
- Your Pastoral Carer

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church 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