



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 19 February 2023



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning, the gospel reading for today is Matthew 17:1-9, Matthew's account of the Transfiguration. Jesus decided to take Peter, James, and John up to a mountain. When they arrived at the top of the mountain, Jesus was transformed before them, and His clothing became dazzling white. Then Elijah and Moses appeared, and they began to converse with Jesus.

After getting over the shock, Peter spoke to Jesus and said: "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here. We will erect three booths for you on this mountain, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter didn't realise what he was saying because he and the other two disciples were filled with awe. Then a cloud came and overshadowed them. A voice spoke from the cloud interrupting and correcting Peter, it said: "This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him." Then the disciples realised that no one else was with them— only Jesus.

The disciples knew that Jesus was an extraordinary teacher, or prophet; however, to have Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus must have astounded them. Moses and Elijah were two of the most important figures in the Old Testament, Moses representing the Law and Elijah representing the Prophets. The reason God stepped in and corrected Peter was that in saying that he would build them dwellings (some translations say tabernacles) Peter was putting Moses and Elijah on the same level as Jesus or rather, he was putting Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah.

It is interesting that the disciples were so astounded. After all, not long before this reading Jesus asked the disciples who they thought he was and Peter answered "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:16) And even before that, when John the Baptist baptised Jesus, A voice from heaven was heard revealing Jesus' identity to them saying "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" which was very similar to what it said here on the mountain. So why are the disciples so astounded by this revelation?

It's easy to be critical of the disciples, but is it fair? What if we were to put ourselves in their shoes Jesus was doing and saying things that didn't make sense to them. We have it easy from our point of view; Jesus has already died, been resurrected, ascended to heaven, and we have had 2000 years of teaching and preaching about who Jesus is. These poor disciples have never heard anyone say the things that Jesus did, and their idea of a messiah was somebody that would free them from Rome's iron grip. All that aside, the most important words in this Gospel reading are the words that were spoken from the cloud: "This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him."

This is our call for today and every day. We are to be aware of Jesus' presence in our lives and listen for his voice. Today Jesus will come to us; however, if we are not awake or attentive, we will miss him. What a loss that would be to us. But it would also be a great loss for all the people around us. God has given us to them, to minister to, to serve, to love, and to share the Gospel with.

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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

Today	Chaira Companions 1.30pm
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Bible Study Group 6.30pm
Saturday	Men's Breakfast 8am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music	28 February 9.30am
Craft Club	3 March 9am
Fellowship Lunch	8 March 11.45am
Elders/Church Council Meeting	14 March 7pm

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elders	Neil & Jill	Elizabeth & Jill
Organist	Audrey	Jill
Greeters	Joan C & Patti	Jane & Walter
Bible Reader	Yesha & Noah	Dudley & Barbara
Children's Message	Elizabeth	Aaron
Morning Tea	Stephanie & Dorothy McA	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Walter & Neil	Nigel
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Lorraine W & Helene

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

Men's Breakfast

The men will meet at the **Twisted Fig Café** for a tasty Breakfast at 8am this Saturday (25 Feb) - off Bunnings Car Park. They then come back to the church for Carpet Bowls. It is a great time of fun and fellowship—**all men are welcome!!**

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