



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 5 February 2023



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Good morning. In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus coins a phrase that we still use today. He tells his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth." What does that phrase mean to you? What characteristics would you use to describe a person that you consider to be "the salt of the earth?" Down to earth? Practical? Sensible? Caring? Most likely all of us are "salt of the earth" in a variety of ways. However, Jesus also says that if we lose our "saltiness," we also lose our tastiness and then we are not good for anything. In the ancient world salt was used to preserve meat so it was very valuable, in fact our word salary is derived from the Greek word for salt, because at one time the Romans used salt as currency.

Jesus also tells his disciples (and us): "You are the light of the world." This is a powerful and perhaps an intimidating statement. Light is essential in many ways. Plants cannot grow without light. Light enables us to see more clearly. If we don't have light, we stumble and struggle through life. And if we take Jesus' words seriously, we need to share our light with everybody we meet.

Ask yourself: Do I truly consider myself the "the light of the world?" If you answer yes, how do you share your light? What acts do you do that bring light to other people? What are the gifts of light you share with

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others: a smile, a kind act, noticing someone who needs some help or encouragement, reaching out to someone who is lonely, sitting with a friend who is ill or simply sharing a flower or fresh tomato from your garden? These may be small acts, but they are filled with light.

But what are the areas of your life is your light dim or perhaps even extinguished? What is the cause of the loss of light? Do you sense any glimmer of light beginning to shine in this area of your life? How do you experience God in this situation?

Our light is not our creation. God chose to make us creatures of "light." Our light is not ours; it is a share of God's light. Our light is not to be hoarded. Our light has been given to us to share with our family, friends, the strangers we meet, and our world. Today may you consciously and generously let your light shine. After all, our light comes from God, so it truly is God's light that is shining through us.

Our world is in desperate need of light. There is a tremendous amount of darkness, pain, tragedy, loneliness, and sadness in our world. Today and every day, the world needs your light and my light. Together we can light up the world with God's light and love.

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
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Fellowship Lunch 11.45am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Bible Study Group 6.30pm
Saturday	Messy Church 4pm

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music 14 February 9.30am
Church Council 14 February 7pm
Craft Club 17 February 9am
Chaira Companions 19 February 1.30pm
Men's Breakfast 25 February 8am

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elders	Elizabeth & Jill	Elizabeth & Neil
Organist	Lilian	Jill
Greeters	Jan & Mary B	Lorraine S & Daphne
Bible Readers	Lynn & Patti	Stephanie & Joyce
Morning Tea	Vai & Sylvia	Pat & Denise
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Messy Church
Cleaning	Craft Club	Messy Church

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

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 11:45am Wednesday February 8th in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 6th February

Mainly Music

The first Mainly Music session of this term is on Tuesday 7 February. This is an exciting and rewarding outreach activity. If you would like to be part of this team—please see Lynn for further details.

Messy Church

Another exciting outreach activity starts back on Saturday 11 February at 4pm. If you would like to know more or be part of this great team, please talk to Jane or Rev. Aaron

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