



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 14 January 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning

Our readings this morning Genesis 2:15-3:7 and Matthew 4:1-11 talk about temptation something we face every day, and each reading gives us a different way of dealing with it. In Genesis 2:15-3:7, we read about the idyllic setting of the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve of the garden enjoyed a harmonious relationship with God, however we see that even in the Garden of Eden temptation and sin are never far away. The serpent deviously questions God's command, sowing doubt in the minds of Adam and Eve. The temptation to seize knowledge and independence proved too enticing, for Adam and Eve leading to the tragic disobedience that disrupted the perfect communion with God.

We can relate to this story because we also face challenges in our lives. Sometimes we are tempted by things that seem good, but even good things can be distractions that can make us betray our principles and can pull us away from the path that God has set us on. The story of Adam and Eve teaches us to be alert and wise, to resist the subtle whispers of temptation that try to divert us from God's will.

In Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, to experience a period of fasting and solitude before he starts His public ministry. After 40 days of fasting Satan, the master of deception, presents three distinct temptations he tries to exploit Jesus' physical hunger, challenge His trust in God, and appeal to His desire for power. In response, Jesus relies on the power of Scripture, firmly declaring, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus provides us with an example to resist temptation with courage and conviction. When we face challenges, we can rely on our faith and the teachings of Jesus. When we study the

Scriptures, we strengthen our souls, equipping us to be able to reject the temptations of the world. Like Jesus, we can declare with confidence that our true nourishment comes from our relationship with God.

These passages highlight the common thread of temptation woven throughout human history. However, they also offer hope and guidance for overcoming these challenges. The key lies in cultivating a strong foundation in our relationship with God, as Jesus shows us.

Every day, we face many challenges and difficulties that test our faith and resolve. But we are not alone in this journey. We can learn from the poor choices of Adam and Eve in the garden and live by the example of Jesus' wilderness experience. These examples teach us how to identify and avoid temptation and rely on the power that comes from our relationship with God. By doing this, we can find comfort and guidance, and ultimately overcome the trials that seek to lead us away from God.

Our readings illuminate a profound truth: our journey is defined by the choices we make. God, in His unlimited love, gave us the gift of free will, allowing us the independence to choose between Him and the allure of temptation. Our Heavenly Father, ever patient and merciful, will never force us into choosing His path. Instead, He invites us to discern, learn, and lean on Scripture and the example of Jesus for strength. Our choices have consequences. Every choice we make holds the potential to draw us closer to the abundant life God wants for us or lead us astray.

As we journey through life with the intricate tapestry of choices we make, let's be mindful every decision we make has lasting consequences, not only for ourselves but for God's kingdom. Let's pray for God's guidance and grace to align our will with His glorious plan.

Grace and peace.

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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.

Today's Bible Readings

Genesis 2:15-3:7
Matthew 4:1-11

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am

Church activities Christmas/New Year Hiatus

As you can no doubt see from the above, most of our non worship service activities are taking a break over Christmas and New Year. Please see the **Other upcoming events for your diary** list for restart dates.

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kid's Church	N/A	N/A
Duty Elder	Elizabeth	Robyn
Organist	Audrey	Jill
Greeters	Robyn & Joyce	Sylvia & Joan C
Bible Readers	Joyce & Robyn	Audrey & Neil
Morning Tea	Pat & Sylvia	Audrey & Vai
Hall Set Up	Ross	Nigel
Cleaning		Aaron & Jane

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

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

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions 21 January 1bc
Men's Breakfast 27 January 8am
KYB (CWCI) 1 February 10am
Evening Bible Study 1 February 6.30pm
Craft Club 2 February 9am
Kid's Church 4 February 9am
Mainly Music 6 February 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 7 February 9.30am
Elders/Council Meeting 13 February 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 14 February 11.45am
Pastoral Care Meeting 23 February 10am

Christmas Bowl

Today is the final chance to make a donation to this year's Christmas Bowl appeal. Donation envelopes are on the table in the foyer.

Unwanted cards

If you have any unwanted Christmas or Birthday Cards please speak to Sylvia, as she will be happy to take them off you and put them to good use!

Church tidy up!!

Over the years there has been an accumulation of items in various parts of our church building, many of which are not in use and extremely unlikely to ever be used again. Church Council has give approval for a small team to gather these items together, and Don Biggs has kindly agreed to use his van to take these items to Stotts Creek Dump. This will be done this month—if you are interested in being a part of this team, please talk to Nigel.

In addition we are asking leaders of the various activities, including Mainly Music, Messy Church and Craft Club, in particular, to assess their resources to see if any items can be included in the tidy up. Again, please talk to Nigel about this.

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