



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 21 January 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning,

Today's readings Isaiah 6:1-8 and Mark 1:14-20, are about the transformative call to discipleship.

In Isaiah 6:1-8, we witness the prophet Isaiah's awe-inspiring encounter with the holiness of God. In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah found himself in the presence of the God, surrounded worshiped by a type of angel called seraphim who declared "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." This encounter was not just an amazing sight; it was a life-altering encounter that brought Isaiah to his knees, recognizing his own unworthiness in the presence of God.

When God asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah did not hesitate he replied, "Here am I; send me!" He showed a heart that was eager and prepared to follow God's call. He didn't make excuses or ask for more details. He simply trusted God and offered himself as a servant. This passage reminds us that when we truly encounter the holiness of God, it should stir within us a willingness to respond to His call, even if it means stepping out of our comfort zones.

In Mark 1:14-20, we find Jesus calling of his first disciples. Jesus has just returned from 40 days of fasting and being tempted in the wilderness to the news of John's arrest. John's ministry has ended, and Jesus has begun his ministry, declaring, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." In response to this divine call, Simon and Andrew, James, and John, left their fishing nets to follow Jesus.

Their response was immediate. Like Isaiah, these fishermen didn't hesitate; they left behind their livelihoods and families to start a journey of discipleship. Jesus' call was not only an invitation to follow but also an invitation to participate in the redemptive work of God's kingdom.

In the intersection of these two passages from Isaiah and Mark, we find a common thread – the encounter with the holiness of God and the subsequent call to discipleship. Just as Isaiah responded with "Here am I; send me!" and the disciples left their nets to follow Jesus. Just like Isaiah and the disciples we're called to respond to the divine call on our lives to actively engage in the work of God's kingdom.

As Christians and as a community of faith we always stand at a crossroad, a moment where we are invited to deepen our relationship with God and embrace our calling as disciples. Let's seek those divine encounters, whether in moments of worship, prayer, or reflection on Scripture. May we be willing, like Isaiah, to say, "Here am I; send me!" and, like the disciples, to leave behind the familiar, comfortable and safe to follow the call of Christ.

As we journey together in faith, may the Holy Spirit empower and guide us. Let's be a community known for our willingness to respond to God's call, to love one another, and to share the love of God and the transformative message of the gospel our neighbours.

Grace and peace

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.

Today's Bible Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8

Mark 1:14-20

What's Happening This Week

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

Kids Church

There will be a meeting of the leaders/teachers after church today. If you are already active in that role, or think you would like to be, please do come along and talk to Jane.

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kid's Church	N/A	N/A
Duty Elder	Robyn	Neil
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Sylvia & Joan C	Jill & Lynn
Bible Readers	Audrey & Neil	Dudley & Yesha
Morning Tea	Audrey & Vai	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Walter
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Lynn

*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

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
Chaira Companions 18 February tbc
Pastoral Care Meeting 23 February 10am

Internet and Email security

Unfortunately there are numerous online scams around at present, and, if anything they are growing in number and methodology. Only this week a member of our congregation was contacted by friends stating they had received an email from 'him' seeking financial assistance. Thankfully they made further contact in person, and did not respond online, as the email did not come from this person. Please be aware of this type of scam, and never do anything without first making contact by phone or in person. If you have any concerns regarding these type of online activities, please talk to Nigel and he will endeavour to help.

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