



BANORA POINTER



Sunday 20 July 2025

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Listening and Living: A Faith that Serves and Sits

This week's readings from *Deuteronomy 6:4–9* and *Luke 10:38–42* bring us into two sacred spaces—one filled with commandment, the other with conversation. In both, we hear a central truth: loving God is not just something we feel, and it's not just something we do. It is both.

Deuteronomy gives us the Shema, Israel's most central prayer: "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.*" This love isn't just a concept. It's a love that God tells us teach to our children, to speak about in our homes and everywhere we go, it's a love that fills our entire being. It's lived. It moves. It shows up in daily life.

And in *Luke 10*, we meet two sisters—Martha, busy with the work of hosting Jesus, and her sister Mary, sitting at His feet, listening. Martha is frustrated that she's doing all the work. But Jesus gently tells her that *Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her.*

Is Jesus rejecting service in favour of stillness? No. He's reminding us that all true service begins in a place of listening. And all real contemplation is meant to shape how we live. Christian life is not a tug-of-war between being like Mary or being like Martha. It's a rhythm that holds both.

This week's Scriptures invite us to embrace three important truths:

1. Loving God begins with listening.

"*Hear, O Israel...*" The first word of the Shema isn't "go" or "do"—it's "hear." The life of faith begins by tuning our ears to the voice of God. Mary wasn't being passive; she was practicing the most important commandment—listening in love. Before we rush to serve or speak, we need to hear what God is saying. We need stillness. We need space to receive.

And sometimes that stillness feels unproductive. But it is essential. Without it, we serve from exhaustion, not love. Mary shows us the heart of discipleship: sit, listen, receive.

2. The rhythm of faith is both doing and being.

It's easy to criticize Martha, but let's not forget—Jesus was sitting in a house made clean and welcoming because of her. A faithful life means *hearing* and *doing*, *loving* and *living*, *serving* and *sitting*. Jesus doesn't scold Martha for serving—He invites her to be present with Him in the midst of it. Her mistake wasn't what she was doing, but that she forgot *why* she was doing it—and for *whom* she was doing it. Martha's hands and Mary's heart aren't enemies—they're both needed.

The Shema tells us to love God with all our being, with everything that we do and all that we are. That includes the meals we cook, the homes we tend, the jobs we work, and the people we help.

3. Faith is a balance of heart, soul, and strength.

Jesus teaches that Mary's posture of listening is "the better part"—but not the *only* part. The goal isn't to choose Mary *or* Martha. The goal is to live like Jesus, who often withdrew to pray *and* fed the hungry. He taught the crowds *and* washed feet. Our Christian life is at its best when our contemplation fuels our compassion, and our service flows from the still centre of God's love.

So What Now?

Maybe you feel like Martha—rushed, stressed, unnoticed. Or maybe you long to be like Mary, but your life won't slow down. The invitation is not to choose one over the other, but to bring both into rhythm. Hear God voice. Live God's love. Sit and serve. Listen and act.

Let the love of God shape every moment—when you're at the table, in the car, folding laundry, or sitting in silence. That's where real faith lives.

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

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & Luke 10:38-42

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 12 Noon
Tuesday	Elders' Meeting 4pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am
Saturday	Men's Breakfast 8am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music 29 July 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 30 July 9.30am
Craft Club 8 August 9am
Church Council Meeting 12 August 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 13 August 12 noon
Chaira Companions 17 August 1.30pm
Pastoral Care Meeting 29 August 10.15am
Men's Breakfast 30 August 8am
Elders' Meeting 9 September 4pm
Fashion Parade 17 September - time TBC

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elder	Robyn	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Robyn & Sylvia	Denise & Lynn
Bible Readers	Lena & Sylvia	Dudley & Walter
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Aaron
Morning Tea	Pat & Terryll	Pat & Chris
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Craft Club
Sound Room	Nigel	Ross
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Craft Club

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

Fred's Place & You Have a Friend

Winter is very much upon us, and as everyone can feel it is especially cold overnight at present! It is that time again when we show our compassion to those in need. There is need for warm clothing, especially jackets, plus warm blankets. Also non-perishable foods and toiletries items. All donations can be left in the church foyer. Please contact Marshall or Jill, for more detailed information. Many thanks to all who have assisted in the past, and we hope and pray for your continuing support this year.



Craft Club

Craft Club returns this Friday for the first session of Term 3. Everyone is welcome—please see the Craft Club Flyers in the foyer for the various activities undertaken. If you need more information please talk to Hazel or Audrey.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 26 July at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South). **All men are welcome.**

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 or Your Pastoral Carer

Mainly Music



The first session of the new term begins on 29 July. There is clean up of toys that takes place the week before (this week)—please talk to Elizabeth, Lorraine or Terryll if you can help with this and to get more details.

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