



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 17 May 2026

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Held Together in Prayer and Hope

Gospel of John 17:1–11; Acts of the Apostles 1:6–14

There are seasons in life that feel uncertain and unfinished. Moments where we find ourselves waiting for clarity, direction, or hope. We want answers quickly, but often life unfolds slowly. The disciples knew that feeling well. In John 17 and Acts 1, they stand in a moment between what has been and what is still to come. Jesus is preparing to leave them, and the future feels uncertain. Yet in the middle of that uncertainty, two things hold them steady: the prayer of Jesus and the practice of prayer together.

The Prayer of Jesus

John 17 gives us a remarkable glimpse into the heart of Christ. Just before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus prays for His disciples. What is striking is that Jesus is not focused on His own suffering. Instead, His concern is for those He loves. He prays, “Holy Father, protect them... so that they may be one.”

Jesus knows the disciples are not perfect. He knows fear and failure are coming. Peter will deny Him. Others will scatter. Yet Jesus still prays for them lovingly and faithfully. There is deep comfort in that. Jesus doesn’t wait until His followers have everything together before He cares for them. He prays for them in the middle of their weakness and uncertainty. And He continues to hold His people in prayer today.

What Jesus desires most is not success or influence, but unity. He prays that His followers would remain together, shaped by love, grace, and faithfulness. In a world so easily divided by fear, pride, and self-interest, the prayer of Jesus reminds us that community matters deeply to God.

Learning to Wait

When we move forward into Acts 1, the disciples face another difficult moment. The risen Jesus is about to ascend to the Father, and naturally they want answers. They ask if this is finally the moment everything will be restored. Instead of giving them a detailed plan, Jesus gives them a promise: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

And then He tells them to wait. Waiting is rarely comfortable. We prefer certainty and immediate direction. But so much of the spiritual life involves learning to trust God before we can fully see where He is leading us.

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What is beautiful in Acts is the way the disciples respond. They gather together and devote themselves to prayer. They don’t yet know what Pentecost will look like. They do not know how the Gospel will spread. They simply remain faithful together in the waiting. Prayer becomes the place where God shapes them for what is coming next.

A Community Formed Together

One of the most important themes in these readings is that faith is never meant to be lived alone. The disciples wait together. Pray together. Hope together. These days where loneliness and isolation are increasingly common, this matters enormously. Christianity is not simply a private relationship between “me and God.” Jesus forms a people. A community shaped by prayer, grace, and shared life.

Of course, community is not always easy. Relationships can be messy. People disappoint one another. Yet the answer to imperfect community is not isolation, but deeper grace and patience with one another. The Church was never built on perfect people. It was built on ordinary people who stayed together and trusted that God was still at work among them.

Living as People of Prayer and Hope

So what does this mean for us?

First, it means remembering that we are held by the prayers of Christ. In seasons of uncertainty, we are not abandoned. Jesus continues to intercede for His people with love and faithfulness.

Second, it means learning to pray before we panic. The disciples teach us that waiting with God is not wasted time. Prayer reorients our hearts and reminds us that the future ultimately belongs to God.

And finally, it means committing ourselves to one another. We are called to be a people who encourage, forgive, support, and walk alongside each other through life’s uncertainties. Life is hard, life as a disciple is even more difficult, but we’re not in it alone we can rely on each other and depend on God.

The early Church didn’t begin with power or certainty, it began with a small group of prayerful people gathered together in hope. And it grew. Perhaps that is still how God works today.

**Grace and peace,
Rev. Aaron**

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

Acts 1:6-14 & John 17:1-11

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 12 Noon
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Book Club 1.30pm TCCEA Prayer Meeting 4pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 9am CWCI (KYB) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music	26 May 9.30am
Book Club	26 May 1.30pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	27 May 9.30am
Pastoral Care Meeting	29 May 9.30am
Men's Breakfast	30 May 8am
Craft Club	5 June 9am
Church Council Meeting	9 June 7pm
Fellowship Lunch	10 June 12 noon
Chaira Companions	21 June 1.30pm
Elders' Meeting	14 July 4pm
TCCEA Prayer Meeting	18 August 4pm

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Elizabeth	Joyce
Organist/Pianist	Mel	Mel/Audrey
Greeters	Sylvia & Nigel	Tambar & Lorraine
Bible Readers	Yesha & Joyce	Sylvia & Nigel
Prayers for Others	Audrey	Aaron
Morning Tea	Pat & Hazel	Hazel & Dorothy Mc
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Craft Club
Sound Room	Ross	Elizabeth
Cleaning	Mainly Music	Craft Club

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 or Your Pastoral Carer

TCCEA Prayer Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend our church on **Tuesday 19 May at 4pm**, when we will hear updates about Special Religious Education in our local high schools. Following that, a time of prayer for our teachers, the students, schools and all involved in this vital ministry. If you require any further information – please see Elizabeth.

With Love to the World

We have some copies of the latest edition (Pentecost), still to be collected. Can all those who have subscribed to this publication please collect your copy from the **table in the front foyer** today? Thank you.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 30 May at The Driftwood Café, 29 Greenway Drive, Tweed Heads South (**Please note change of venue**). All men are welcome.

Fred's Place

As Winter will soon be upon us, we are appealing for donations to Fred's Place. Instead of taking clothing donations they are now issuing clothing vouchers to their clients, redeemable at their Charity Shop. As the nights get cooler, they are welcoming donations of blankets, jackets and socks. Canned and packaged foodstuffs would also be appreciated. Please talk to Marshall if you have any queries.

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 Shane Hambling 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