



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 3 May 2026

A message from
Rev. Aaron Moad



Untroubled Hearts, Open Heavens, Courageous Faith

Readings: *John 14:1–14; Acts 7:55–60*

There is something universal about living with unsettled hearts. Anxiety is common, uncertainty seems constant, and faith is often tested by what is happening around us. Life shifts quickly, and what once felt secure can suddenly feel fragile. In those moments, our inner world can become restless. In John 14:1–14, Jesus speaks to His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion. Their world is shaken. Jesus tells them He is going away, and their sense of stability is collapsing. In all of that He speaks a surprising command: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

Not because hardship will disappear, but because He Himself is trustworthy. In Acts 7:55–60, we see Stephen facing a very different moment. Surrounded by hostility and violence, his life is ending under a onslaught of stones. Yet instead of fear, he is filled with peace, his heart is not troubled, he sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. These passages belong together: Jesus’ promise and Stephen’s witness. One speaks words of peace; the other lives them out under pressure. They invite us to ask: How do we live with untroubled hearts in a troubled world?

The Troubled Heart

The reality is that troubled hearts are part of human experience. We worry about the future, replay the past in our minds, and silently carry fears. Like the disciples, we can follow Jesus and still feel unsettled when things change. A troubled heart often arises when we try to hold everything together ourselves. We long for control, certainty, and clarity, but life rarely provides them. Jesus doesn’t scold His disciples for their fear. Instead, He redirects them: “You believe in God; believe also in me.” The issue is not the presence of trouble, but where the heart rests within it. A troubled heart fixates on what is uncertain; a trusting heart rests in the One who is faithful.

The Promise of Christ

Jesus then gives a promise that reshapes everything: “In my Father’s house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for you.” This is not vague comfort but a declaration of belonging. You are known, held, and welcomed. He also says, “I am the way, and the

truth, and the life.” Peace is not found in solving every question, but in following the One who is the way. Stephen’s vision in Acts reveals the same reality. As chaos surrounds him, he sees heaven opened and Jesus standing in glory. What Jesus promised is not distant, it is real and present. The promise doesn’t remove suffering, but it reframes it. When we know where we belong, when we know there is a plan, when we understand that death isn’t the end, we’re not shaken by the troubles we face, we have peace.

The Witness of Faith

Stephen’s response shows what faith looks like when fully formed. He entrusts his spirit to Jesus and prays forgiveness for those harming him. In Stephen’s last minutes he reflects what Jesus did on the cross, this isn’t a natural human reaction, it’s Christ-shaped living. Under pressure, most of us grasp for control or protection. Stephen reflects something different: peace, trust, and mercy.

Faith is not only what we believe in comfort, but how we respond in tough times. It releases fear, resentment, and control, and makes room for grace, hope, forgiveness, and peace.

Living with Untroubled Hearts Today

Jesus speaks into troubled hearts: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Not because life is easy, but because He is present.

So how do we live this today?

1. Anchor your heart in Christ through prayer and trust.
2. Lift eyes to eternal hope, remembering God is at work beyond what we see.
3. Reflect Christ in your responses, choose forgiveness, patience, and grace.

This way of life brings stability to our hearts, clarity to our vision, and witness to our world. Not because we are strong, but because He is faithful.

Trust Him. Lift your eyes. And live with courage in His love.

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

Acts 7:55-60 & John 14:1-14

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Book Club 1.30pm
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	12 May 9.30am
Book Club	12 May 1.30pm
Elders' Meeting	12 May 4pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	13 May 9.30am
Fellowship Lunch	13 May 12 noon
Chaira Companions	17 May 12 noon
TCCEA Prayer Meeting	19 May 4pm
Craft Club	22 May 9am
Pastoral Care Meeting	29 May 9.30am
Men's Breakfast	30 May 8am
Church Council Meeting	9 June 7pm

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Neil	Robyn
Organist/Pianist	Mel	Audrey & Mel
Greeters	Lynn & Stephanie	Joyce & Denise
Bible Readers	Robyn & Lynn	Noah & Lumiere
Prayers for Others	Jane	Joyce
Morning Tea	Shirley T & Dorothy Mc	Sylvia & Stephanie
Hall Set Up	Ross	Craft Club
Sound Room	Nathan	Nigel
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Craft Club

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

Church Duty Roster

We need your help please! We are looking for more volunteers to help with our duty roster. We have a particular need regarding the hall set up, but if you can help in any way, please do talk to Janice. Thank you.

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 13 May in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 11 May.

With Love to the World

The latest edition (Pentecost), has now reached us. Can all those who have subscribed to this publication please collect your copy from the church office today? Thank you.

Craft Club



Are you a 'Crafty' person? If so, you should give our wonderful Craft Club a go this Friday! You can see the details on the flyers in our front foyer or please talk to Hazel, Audrey, Sylvia or Yesha for more information. Even if you are not particularly 'crafty', it is a most sociable group that will make you very welcome and give you plenty of advice and tips on your possible chosen activity.

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

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