

Sunday 5 July 2026

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Come to Me

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 and Matthew 11:11–19, 25–30

Life is full of invitations. Some are ordinary: a meal with friends, a community event, a family celebration. Others are more significant: an invitation into a new job, a new direction, or a new stage of life. Some invitations quietly reshape everything.

The Scriptures this week centre on two powerful invitations. In Genesis, Rebekah is invited into God's unfolding plan in a way she could never have anticipated. In Matthew, Jesus extends an open invitation to all who are weary: *"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

At first, these stories seem very different. One is an ancient journey toward marriage; the other is Jesus speaking to crowds. Yet both reveal the same truth: God is the One who takes the initiative, and faith is our response to His invitation.

Today these readings invite us to reflect on three areas of faith.

I. Trusting that God is already at work

Genesis 24 shows God quietly guiding every step of Abraham's servant. Again and again the servant recognises, *"The Lord has led me."* He does not rely on his own wisdom or planning but sees God's hand in every detail; before, during, and after the journey.

This reminds us that God is often at work in ways we do not immediately see. Through ordinary conversations, unexpected opportunities, and even small decisions, God is preparing what lies ahead. Often, we only recognise His guidance in hindsight.

Jesus affirms this in Matthew. Truth is revealed not through human achievement, but through God's gracious initiative. Even our ability to come to faith begins with God already at work in us. Long before we seek Him, He is seeking us.

II. Responding willingly to God's call

When Rebekah is asked whether she will go with Abraham's servant, she responds simply: *"I will go."* Those three words mark a turning point, not only in her life, but in the unfolding story of God's people.

Rebekah doesn't have all the details. She doesn't know the full path ahead. But she trusts enough to take the next step.

In contrast, Jesus speaks of those who see His work but remain unmoved, people who critique John the Baptist and Jesus Himself, unwilling to respond to God's invitation. The issue is not lack of evidence, but unwilling hearts.

These readings remind us that faith is not about having every answer. It is about responding to God's call with trust and obedience. Like Rebekah, we are often asked to step forward without knowing the full journey.

III. Finding true rest in Christ

Jesus' invitation is one of the most comforting in Scripture: *"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* These words speak directly into the reality of human weariness, emotional, spiritual, and physical.

Many today carry burdens of anxiety, grief, responsibility, and regret. Jesus doesn't offer another weight to carry, but rest in His presence. He invites us into relationship, not religion; into companionship, not exhaustion.

However, his promise is not that life becomes effortless, but that we don't walk it alone. To take His yoke is to walk alongside the One who carries the greater weight.

Conclusion

These readings draw us into a deeper understanding of faith. One where we trust that God is already at work, even when we cannot see it, we respond to His call with willing hearts, even when the path is unclear, and we find rest in Christ, who carries our burdens and invites us into His peace.

The same God who guided Rebekah, and who speaks through Jesus, is still at work today. His invitation remains open: *"Come to me."*

The question for each of us is simple, yet profound: will we respond?

Amen.

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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 & Matthew 11:11-19, 25-30

MINISTER: Rev. Aaron Moad

Phone: 0411 325 527

Church Office:

63 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW, 2486

Phone: 07 5524 9035

Email: bpt.uchurch@gmail.com

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 8am
Fellowship Lunch 12 Noon
Thursday Men's Bible Study 9am
CWCI (KYB) 10am

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Joyce	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Terryll & Joan C	Joyce & Lynn
Bible Readers	Lena & Ellie	Lumiere & Noah
Prayers for Others	Elizabeth	Joyce
Morning Tea	Shirley & Dorothy Mc	Stephanie & Terryll
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Nigel
Sound Room	Nigel	Nathan
Cleaning	Terryll & Lynn	Helene & Lorraine

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

Other upcoming events for your diary

Craft Club 17 July 9am
Chaira Companions 19 July 12 Noon
Elders' Meeting 21 July 4pm
Book Club 21 July 1.30pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 22 July 9.30am
Evening Bible Study 23 July 6.30pm
Men's Breakfast 25 July 8am
Mainly Music 28 July 9.30am
Church Council Meeting 11 August 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 12 August 12 Noon
TCCEA Prayer Meeting 18 August 4pm
Pastoral Care Meeting 21 August 9.30am
Fashion Parade 16 September 10.30am

Dudley's Funeral

As previously advised, this takes place tomorrow, Monday 6 July at 1.30pm. Although we are not required to cater, we still need to set the hall up for afternoon tea, serve tea and coffee, and clean up afterwards. **Please stay and help set things up after morning tea today and see Janice if you are able to assist tomorrow.**
Thank you.

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 8 July in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 6 July.

Fred's Place

Many thanks to everyone who has so generously donated to this appeal – it is very much appreciated by Fred's Place. This Winter **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 .

Elder's Meeting

Please note the change of date for this month's Elder's Meeting, as detailed above.

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