

Sunday 16 August 2026

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad

The Wideness of God's Mercy

A Reflection on Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Matthew 15:21-28

God's House Was Always Meant to Be Wide

Have you ever had moments where you wondered if you really belonged? Perhaps you've felt too different, too broken, too uncertain, standing at the edge while everyone else seemed to know their place. Scripture gives us two remarkable passages about people who stood outside looking in.

In Isaiah, God speaks about foreigners who might have assumed they could never belong. He promises to bring them to his holy mountain and make them joyful in his house of prayer: "For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

This would have been a startling promise to a people rebuilding their identity after exile. It would have been easy to draw the circle tightly and say, "This covenant, this hope, is for us." But God says otherwise.

And Matthew tells us about a Gentile woman who despite the rules of the day approaches a rabbi and won't let go until she has been heard. In these passages the foreigners don't push their way into the house; God brings them in. Reminding His people that the invitation was always wider than they imagined.

If we have built walls around grace that God himself did not build, we are called to tear them down.

Faith Holds On, Even Through Silence

In Matthew, we meet a Canaanite woman who approaches Jesus with a desperate plea for her daughter. She is an outsider by every category that mattered in that world. Yet she cries out, "Have mercy on me, Lord."

At first, Jesus says nothing. The silence must have been painful. Annoyed and uncomfortable the disciples urge Jesus to send her away. Still, she doesn't leave. She kneels before Him and continues to plead. When Jesus speaks difficult words about his mission to Israel, she answers with remarkable humility: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Even a crumb of Christ's mercy would be enough.

Jesus responds, "great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."



Her persistence reminds us that faith does not disappear when God seems silent. Sometimes faith is simply refusing to walk away. We keep praying, kneeling, trusting that God sees us, even when we can't see what He is doing or it feels like He isn't listening.

Humility Receives God's Mercy

There is another thread connecting these passages: the outsiders come humbly, not boasting of their qualifications or demanding that God owe them anything. The Canaanite woman doesn't claim she deserves a miracle. She simply brings her need to Jesus.

This distinction matters. Humility doesn't earn God's mercy. It receives it.

We don't come to God because we've earned a place at his table. We come because God is merciful. None of us qualifies for a place in His house by birth, achievement, or a perfect record; we are welcomed by grace.

That should change how we welcome others, too. It's easy for those who have been "inside" a long time to become the very people guarding a door that we ourselves entered only because someone opened it for us.

There Is Room for You

So what does this mean for us? We could widen our welcome. Keep holding on in faith even when the answer seems delayed. Come humbly, bringing our need and whatever faith you have. Remember God's house was always meant to be a house of prayer for all peoples. We don't have to earn our place at God's table. We come because God is merciful, because Christ is gracious, because the invitation is wider than we thought.

May we become people who refuse to build fences and lock doors where God has built a table. There is room at the table. **There is mercy for the outsider. There is grace for the one who keeps asking. And there is room for us.**

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 56:1&6-8 & Matthew 15:21-28

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 1.30pm
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Book Club 1.30pm TCCEA Prayer Meeting 4pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am Fellowship Lunch 12 Noon
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 9am CWCI (KYB) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Saturday	Mini Market 8.30am

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music 25 August 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 26 August 9.30am
Craft Club 28 August 9am
Men's Breakfast 29 August 8am
Elders' Meeting 8 September 4pm
Fellowship Lunch 9 September 12 Noon
Fashion Parade 16 September 10.30am
Chaira Companions 20 September 12 Noon
Church Council Meeting 13 October 7pm
TCCEA Prayer Meeting 20 October 4pm
Pastoral Care Meeting 27 November 9.30am TBC

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Neil	Joyce
Organist/Pianist	Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Sylvia & Nigel	Tambar & Denise
Bible Readers	Robyn & Lena	Sylvia & Nigel
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Aaron
Morning Tea	Pat & Terryll	Hazel & Dorothy Mc
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Market Team
Sound Room	Ross	Nathan
Cleaning	Craft Club	Mainly Music

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

Mini Market

This is the final push for Saturday's Mini Market. Please read the Pointer insert carefully.

Pastoral Care Meeting

Please note there will be a Pastoral Care meeting this Friday 21 August at 9.30am in the church.

TCCEA Prayer Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend our church on **Tuesday 18 August 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.

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 continue to welcome donations of blankets, jackets and socks. Canned and packaged foodstuffs would also be appreciated.** Please talk to Marshall if you have any queries.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 29 August at The Driftwood Café, 29 Greenway Drive Tweed Heads South. All men are welcome.

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