

28 February 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

I Delight In You

As we journey through Lent we continue to reflect upon our spiritual life. For some, Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits, whilst for others it is an opportunity to pick up new practices that bring life, connection and growth as part of the spiritual journey. I encourage you to consider this in the days ahead. What practices might you pick up or lay down as you explore your faith in a deeper way? Our sub-theme for Lent, "**A Lenten Refrain**," speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives and over our lives. There is a beautiful passage in the Old Testament book of Zephaniah which describes God singing over us with joy:



"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

The artwork above is titled, "*I Delight In You*" and was created by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. It is based on Jesus' baptism in Mark 1 and the divine voice speaking words over Jesus and naming him as Beloved. Lisle says:

"As soon as the water washes over him, creation is summoned to celebrate. I imagine [Jesus] wading into the waters and leaning back to receive the blessing that falls upon him like rain: You are my beloved."

This is a delightful display of God singing over Jesus with joy. In our gathering last Sunday I spoke these words:

*"If you hear nothing else today, hear this:
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.
God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,
And God calls you beloved."*

My prayer is that as we engage in new practices or lay down others, we might be filled with the deep and grounded knowledge that we are known and loved by God. May you know and experience this deeply in your being. You are indeed loved!

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Monday to Fridays 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Upcoming events...

Service of the Shadows: 5pm Thursday 1 April - Bangalow UCA

Good Friday: 9am Friday 2 April - Mullumbimby UCA

Easter Sunday Sunrise: 6am Sunday 4 April Cape Byron lighthouse

Easter Sunday: 9am Sunday 4 April - Mullumbimby UCA

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:


BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6685 1708

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain

This Lent our theme is: ***“Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain.”*** In Lent, we’re reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. But we are also reminded in this theme of God’s presence with us...again & again. This is so vital for our ongoing faith journey. No matter what may come - God is with us...Again & Again. Each day of Lent, Rev Phil will be posting resources on our Facebook Page to encourage our reflections on this journey. We have also emailed out a Devotional Booklet and we have some beautifully printed card packs with a daily reflection that are available. There are so many opportunities to engage on the spiritual journey this Lent.



Growing Young



The Growing Young Project has been advertised for a few months now and we all have the opportunity to participate. We are asking you to engage in the Growing Young survey which will give us helpful information as we engage in this Synod project. Please complete the short survey by March 8th. To access the survey please click on: <https://www.oursurvey.church/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

We still have a number of copies of the Growing Young book and would love a few more people to join us in the project. We are now finalising a small group within our congregation who will read this book (like a book club/small group) and then meet fortnightly to discuss the content, eventually developing an approach for our own church. This group will now begin in March as we wait for the survey results. If you would like to be part of this group please contact Rev Phil. For more details on Growing Young try this link: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/growing-young/>

Vision Task Group

Our Vision Task Group will begin meeting this coming week to discuss future ministry and mission possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan. Initially this group will meet once a month to discuss ideas, review our current Mission Plan and then develop a plan for the future. If you would like to be part of this group it is not too late, simply contact Rev Phil and he will let you know more details.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 28 February: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Week of 7 March: Ireland, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Prayer Points:

- An enriching Lenten journey this year. May our theme ***“Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain”*** help us to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus and grow us as we prepare for Easter.
- The Wet Weather Shelter program at Byron Bay and our links with the Byron Bay Community Centre. May those who slept in our church building last week be blessed and may there be ongoing funding for this amazing community connection and display of God’s love.
- Older Australians: that they receive quality and compassionate care when they need it and that our policy-makers are emboldened to make the structural changes needed in the aged care system.
- The relationships we have with people of other faiths and our work together seeking the common good.

Gathered Worship

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| Sunday 28th February | 5pm Bangalow | Again & Again, We Are Called To Listen - Rev Phil |
| Sunday 7th March: | 9:30am Byron Bay Communion 5pm Bangalow Communion | Again & Again, We Are Shown The Way - Rev Phil |
| Sunday 14th March: | 5pm Bangalow | Again & Again, God Loves First - Rev Phil |
| Sunday 21st March: | 9:30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow | Again & Again, We Are Reformed - Rev Phil |

Easter Dates

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| Thursday 1st April | 5pm Bangalow | Service Of The Shadows |
| Sunday 4th April | 6am Cape Byron Lighthouse | Easter Sunrise |

We are also invited to join Brunswick Valley Uniting Church for their Easter gatherings:

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| Friday 2nd April | 9am Mullumbimby UCA | Good Friday |
| Sunday 4th April | 9am Mullumbimby UCA | Easter Sunday |

Lectionary Readings

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| 28 February | Genesis 17:1-7 | Psalms 22:23-31 | Romans 4:13-25 | Mark 8:31-38 |
| 7 March | Exodus 20:1-17 | Psalms 19 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 | John 2:13-22 |
| 14 March | Numbers 21:4-9 | Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 | Ephesians 2:1-10 | John 3:14-21 |
| 21 March | Jeremiah 31:31-34 | Psalms 51:1-12 or 119:9-16 | Hebrews 5:5-10 | John 12:20-33 |

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.