

21 August 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



The Season of Creation...

This year we will be engaging in the Season of Creation as the theme for our worship gatherings in September. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation, through celebration and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in developing and making this special time a season in the Christian calendar year that runs parallel to the Lectionary cycle of scripture readings. The season starts on September 1st, the Day of Prayer for Creation and ends on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, beloved by many Christian denominations.



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12

**Listen to the
Voice of Creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

This year the chosen theme is ***“Listen to the Voice of Creation.”*** During the COVID-19 pandemic, many have become familiar with the concept of being muted in conversations. Many voices are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping. These are voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change. These are voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. It is the voice of the Earth. The 2022 Season of Creation theme raises awareness of our need to listen to the voice of creation. The Psalmist declares,

“The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19: 1-4)

Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we listen?

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God’s presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice. In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God’s Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action. As we celebrate this Season of Creation, let us light candles, light the Easter fire, adorn a bush in our place of worship or action. And may this symbol remind us to take off our sandals, contemplate our connection to holy ground, listen for the voice of creation, and be filled with hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of God’s healing love that sustains our common home.

May this 2022 Season of Creation renew our gratitude for God’s beautiful creation! And may this season of prayer and action be a time to *Listen to the Voice of Creation*, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim good news for all the Earth! Grace & 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...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Cuppa & Conversation: Wednesday 10:00am-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA (On a pause)

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Minister's Leave: Monday 22nd August-Sunday 28th August

Growing Young: Monday 29th August, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 30th August, 11am @ Byron Bay UCA

Fairtrade Father's Day Stall: Wednesday 31st August @ Brunswick Heads PS

Fairtrade Father's Day Stall: Thursday 1st September @ Bangalow PS

Family Gathering: "Creation": Sunday 18th September, 5.00pm @ Bangalow 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: 6601 2010

<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



Minister's Leave - Monday 22nd August-Sunday 28th August

In the UCA, ordained ministers are expected to complete two weeks of Professional Development each year, to engage in lifelong learning and enrichment for their calling. Rev Phil will be taking a week of Professional Development Leave from Monday 22nd August until Sunday 28th August. In this time he will be completing the requirements to become a Prepare-Enrich Facilitator. If you have any needs in this time please contact Mrs Corinne Nash our Church Council Secretary and she will direct you.



The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

We are now well into planning for a new event called:

"The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival".

Approved by the Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the

Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December. We have invited a range of community groups in the Bangalow community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church for this period and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We also aim to have musical groups and choirs singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned and we will give more information about this shortly. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Men's Shed, Red Cross, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican and Mirabelle Preschool, with hopefully more to join us. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time.

Lectionary Readings

21 August	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	Hebrew 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
28 August	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalms 81:1	Hebrew 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
4 September	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
11 September	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalms 14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10

Gathered Worship

Sunday 21st August	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 28th August	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- George Graham
Sunday 4th September	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion and Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 11th September	5pm Bangalow	- TBC

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 21 August: Liberia, Sierra Leone

Week of 28 August: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

Prayer Points:

- Uniting Church children and young people as they live with faith, curiosity, passion and conviction in our Church and world. We thank God for their leadership, unique insights and many gifts.
- Those mourning the passing and celebrating the enduring, creative legacy of Olivia Newton-John, Judith Durham and Archie Roach.
- The upcoming *Season of Creation* (Sept 1-October 4). May we listen to the voice of creation and be filled with gratitude at the beauty of God's creation. May we also respond in recognising our role in caring for creation.



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.