

2 SAMUEL 7:1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of

promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near: for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognised them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognised him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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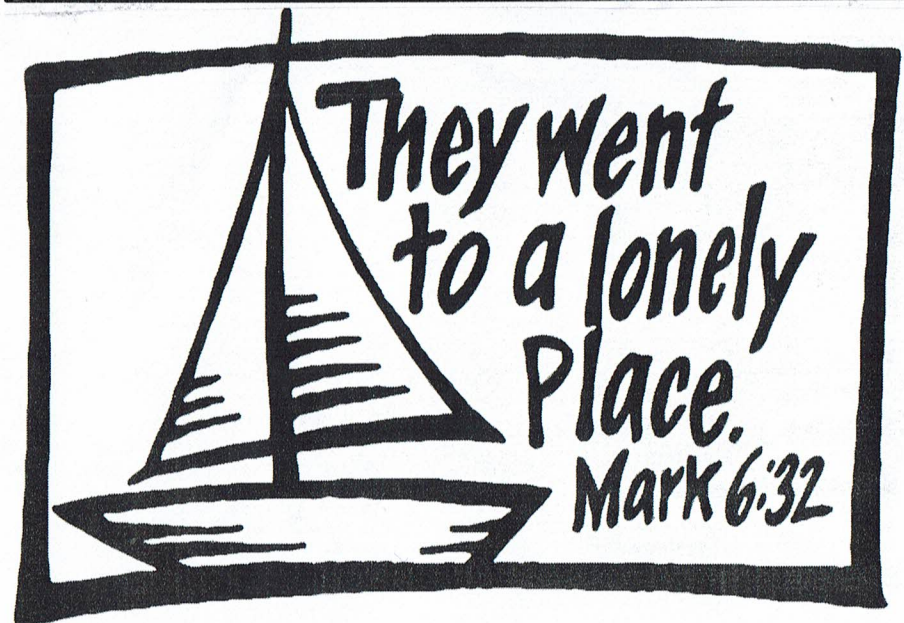
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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'

Rev. Jean Shannon

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Morning Worship: Roster

	21 st July 2024	28 th July 2024
Leader	Rev Jean Shannon & Ailsa Liffman	Tony Olinsky
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Elizabeth Prosser
Entry of Bible	Iris Ballard	Ailsa Liffman
Acknowledgement of Country	Geoff Burton	Tony Olinsky
Stewards	Anne Olinsky & Tony Olinsky	Meryll Davey & Iris Ballard
Reader	Beryl McGrath	Joan Lovett
Pastoral Prayer	Iris Ballard	Ailsa Liffman
Morning Tea	Robin & Bob Unger	Anne Olinsky & Ana Topic
Projection	Jeff Haynes	Jeff Haynes
Flowers	Ailsa Liffman	Robyn Herdegen
Lectionary	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Ephesians 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21

Regular Activities

Morning Worship: 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am

Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham

Imlay House Service: 2:00pm, 3rd Thursday of the month - helpers would be appreciated - see Rev Jean.

Tura Beach Op Shop: Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Uniting Church Tai Chi 108: Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley

Uniting Church Dance Group: Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and Friday mornings at 9 am Contact Pam Jordan 0475 191 923 for details.

'Blokes United' Coffee Morning - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday each month - 10am at MorMors

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch - 1st Sunday/month (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec.)



Becky Blair - 26th

For those who would like to make their offering anonymously via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for Giving Direct are: **Acc Name** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church **BSB** 634-634 **Acc No** 100037934

Checkout our website: merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au

Find us on Facebook @ Sapphire Coast Uniting Church

At the *Blokes Coffee* held last Wednesday we bid farewell to Royce before his return to Melbourne at the end of the month. We wish him and Joan all the best in their "new adventure"

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd and had compassion for them...! Is compassion in short supply these days? It seems that we are living in an age when we are very likely to look on those who differ to us with disdain and sometimes even with contempt. Racial differences, political differences, cultural differences are all likely to bring a sense of fearful uncertainty and often dislike. It can be understandable, for we live in a world of competition where loud voices shout their particular take on life. It is natural to seek commonality in the face of uncertainty as we look for guidance but not at the expense of others. Jesus began to teach the crowd many things out of his compassion. He recognised their sense of confusion and aimlessness. When we are confused and lost, it is the Christ who comes in compassion to restore us... if we are only willing to hear.

Ever wondered why there is "Stairway to Heaven", and a "Highway to Hell"? There is apparently more traffic going to hell.

Pontius' Puddle

