

## Preaching

8.30am Graham Huth  
10.15am Graham Huth

## Lectionary Readings

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21



## Welcome to AUC!

Please join us after the service for refreshments in the 'breezeway'.

## Contact Us

**Ps Graham Huth**

**Ann-Louise**

4755 0952

0427495329

[graham.huth@bigpond.com](mailto:graham.huth@bigpond.com)

## Church Office

**Kellie Worrell**

Friday

[aitkenvaleuc@bigpond.com](mailto:aitkenvaleuc@bigpond.com)

[aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au](http://aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au)

4779 0060

PO Box 195

AITKENVALE QLD 4814

## Please Pray For:

- ✓ Thanksgiving for the rain in Townsville
- ✓ Those affected by the flooding in FNQ
- ✓ Korean & US leaders as they meet to discuss nuclear disarmament

## The Gospel in a Nutshell

***For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life*** (John 3:16).

A few years ago, I met with a family to prepare for the funeral of their mother, a wonderful lady who had been a faithful member of the local congregation for years. Even when age and health had prevented her from attending Sunday worship, she attended chapel services at the Nursing home, and always looked forward to visits from members of our church pastoral care team. The children however, did not have the same depth of faith, even though it was evident that they had been raised, as children, in a Christian home. Somewhere along the way, the busyness and distractions of life had lured them away from church, and from God.

As we were planning, I asked them if their mum Thelma had had a favourite verse; to which they immediately replied yes – John 3:16. When I gently pressed them to discover how they knew it was her favourite, they brought out a walnut that had been carefully cut in half, and then hinged together. Inside, on an aged, well-worn small slip of paper were printed the words of John 3:16. This had been one of their mother's greatest possessions – but they didn't understand the significance of the nutshell. They only knew that it had sat on mum's Glory Box for years and must have meant something to her.

As we sat quietly in my office, I began to explain to them that this passage is often referred to as 'The Gospel in a Nutshell', because in one verse, John is able to succinctly summarise the whole message of the Gospel. In fact, the whole story of God's relationship with His people (past, present and future) as told in the Bible, is skillfully encapsulated in this one sentence.

As we sat and talked, it gave me an opportunity to speak to them about their mum's faith. We talked about Jesus Christ, and about the hope that he had won for all of us, and that had provided the strength and peace that had sustained Thelma, particularly in recent years of failing health; a hope that they too could rely on. I also explained that just as the hinge on the shell holds it together; the whole hope of the Christian faith hinges on the truths that are expressed in these few words.

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It was another great night at AUC youth last Friday when 18 youth hit the tenpin bowling lanes to show their skills..or at least have fun trying!

## Church Golf

Roy Backer memorial game  
17<sup>th</sup> March

6.30am @ Lavarack Golf club  
9.45am morning tea @ AUC

Please get name and ID number to Kay by:  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
5pm

Bring ID with you  
Please be prompt

## This one thing

Yet hope returns when I  
Remember this one thing:

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue,  
Fresh as the morning,  
As sure as the sunrise.  
The Lord is all I have,  
and so in him I put my hope.

Lamentations 3:21-24

## WHEELCHAIR NEEDED

Wulguru uniting church wish to purchase a lightweight, folding wheelchair to be used to assist people accessing the church via our soon to be completed ramp.

If anyone knows of a suitable wheel chair in reasonable condition and reasonably priced please contact:

Bruce McCarthy 0434452762 or  
Kay Smith 0409892795

Thank you

Join the dark side! Gather a group to pray for our Earth.

Register to win a GBR Turtle cruise at:  
<http://em.wwf.org.au/Az0V00GX30ufj5000B0C0pX>



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Even after leaving this earthly existence, it was amazing how this lady's faith was still reaching out to compel her children, and all who attended her funeral, to discover the truth of the amazing God who had been the centre of her life, and wanted to be the centre of theirs as well.

It seems to me that the last 4 weeks of lessons over Lent can thus be expressed with this same one verse. For God so loved the world (even though our lives lay in **ruin**), God gave his only Son Jesus; so that whoever believes in him (**repents** and turns back to God) may not perish (receives **redemption** for their sins), but have eternal life (are **reborn**). I pray that this Lenten journey is opening up new insights of God's amazing love for you, just as that walnut opened the eyes of a grieving family to the revelation of the hope that is available for all in Jesus Christ.



Grace and Peace, Pastor Graham Huth

## Meet the Pastor and his Wife



It is always hard for an incoming minister to get to know their flock, particularly if the congregation is the size of Aitkenvale. Ann-Louise and I are reaching out With an offer to meet with those who would particularly appreciate an opportunity to meet. Please find at the back of the church a contact sheet so we can arrange and appropriate time.



ORANA ladies rocked Zumba on Wednesday night Looking good ladies!!



Church Picnic Next Sunday In the Breezeway @ AUC

### GO GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March commencing with morning tea in the breezeway at 10am.

After this we will move into the church to watch a short documentary called 'Bec's legacy' which was shown on TV a few weeks ago. Bec was our GO GROUP member Isabel Winton's 30 year old granddaughter who passed away in the latter part of 2017.

If you have any queries please ring VI or Bill Radcliffe 47752657 or Ron & Beryl Quelch 47799346.

### Roster Ruminations – Part 4

(<https://newspring.cc/articles/8-blessings-we-get-from-serving>)

**Blessing # 3 - Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience.**

1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." Serving is a form of worship, a way to express gratitude for what Jesus has done for us, and to share the love and grace we've been given.

# L I V E L O V E L E A D

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

6.30-7.30pm meal, please bring  
a plate to share

7.30-9pm study



## Dates in March

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March Church prayer meeting  
7.15pm @ AUC

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March Live, Love, Lead 6.30pm  
@ AUC

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March Church Golf 6.30am  
@ Lavarack gold club

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March Church picnic  
After 10.15am service

## Easter Services

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March Maundy Thursday  
Service 6.30pm @ AUC

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday service  
8am @ AUC

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April Easter Sunday Combined  
Churches of Townsville Dawn service  
6am @ Castle Hill

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April Easter Sunday service  
9am @ AUC

## Rosters & Readings for 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### 8.30am Service

**Preacher:** Graham Huth

**Reader:** Melody Northey

**Stewards:** Ruth Morris & Liz Johnson

**Minister's Steward:** Ron Northey

**Sound Desk:** Bill Radcliffe

**Data Projector:** Liz Bosworth

**Organist:** Carmel

**Flowers:** Heather

**Morning Tea:** A Reid, L Bosworth, R&M Northey

### 10.15am Service

**Preacher:** Graham Huth

**Reader:** Judy

**Stewards:** Judy

**Sound Desk:** Dave

**Data Projector:** Kellie

**Musicians:** Kate & Angie

**Children's ministry:** Rachel

**Morning Tea:** Church picnic

## Lectionary Readings

**Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33**