

You Remain the Same and Your Years Will Never End

Just how special is Jesus?

A scripture I have been thinking about a lot recently is Hebrews chapter 1, in which the writer tries to convey how superior Jesus Christ is to the angels and the prophets that came as messengers before him. The writer of Hebrews conveys the speech of God the Father about his Son, beginning:

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son: today I have become your Father" (Heb 1:5)

This speech of the Father about the Son continues to a climax:

He also says, 'In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. (Heb 1:10-12)

Here the writer is quoting Psalm 102, but suggesting that these are words that the Father is using about the Son. The startling conclusion, echoed elsewhere in scripture

(John 1:1-3 and Col 1:15-20) is that the Son is also the creator God. That's how special Jesus is!

As we travel through the season of Advent which leads up to Christmas, we will discover together the 'specialness' of Jesus, and celebrate with joy this incredible gift of Godself to each one of us. For Jesus is also called Immanuel (God with us), and in Hebrew Yeshua (God saves).

In Jesus Christ there is new life and new creation, and the invitation for all to experience the blessings of God's Kingdom. Who can we invite to this celebration?

May you know His hope, peace, love and joy this Christmas, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit, amen.

Grace and Peace
Adam Tipple



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are scattered across – the Jarowair and Giabal people.

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Prayer Chain

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Prayer Chain Coordinator

Role Description

Most Christians, when facing challenging times, appreciate the prayer support of their brothers and sisters in Christ. When we experience, for example, illness, bereavement, work, family and relationship problems, our fellow Christians can intercede for us in prayer to the great Intercessor, the Holy Spirit.

A prayer chain is a group of church members who pray for those who request prayer in a particular matter. When someone requests prayer, each person on the chain is contacted and asked to pray. The coordinator contacts the first person on their list of intercessors. That person in turn contacts the next person and so on.

The prayer chain is not a gossip line. All information is confidential and not shared with the wider church membership or anyone outside unless the law has been broken and there is a legal obligation to report something.

The prayer chain coordinator creates a list of prayer chain members with contact numbers/emails where applicable. He/She is the initial person who is contacted with prayer requests. The coordinator then rings the first person on the list, who contacts the second etc. If a member is unavailable, the next person on the list is contacted.

Although Lifeworks has previously had a prayer chain leader, the position has lapsed for a short time. **If you would be willing to be the prayer coordinator, or be part of the prayer chain, please let Adam or Derek know.**



O Lord,

Life passes by swiftly. Events that a few years ago kept me totally preoccupied have now become vague memories; conflicts that a few months ago seemed so crucial in my life now seem futile and hardly worth the energy; inner turmoil that robbed me of my sleep only a few weeks ago has now become a strange emotion of the past; books that filled me with amazement a few days ago now do not seem as important; thoughts that kept my mind captive only a few hours ago have now lost their power and have been replaced by others. . . . Why am I continuously trapped in this sense of urgency and emergency? Why do I not see that you are eternal, that your kingdom lasts forever, and that for you a thousand years are like one day? O Lord, let me enter into your presence and there taste the eternal, timeless, everlasting love with which you invite me to let go of my time-bound anxieties, fears, preoccupations, and worries. . . . Lord, teach me your ways and give me the courage to follow them.

Amen.

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Please note that there will be

no service on Boxing Day

Sunday, 26 December.

This is to give our worship team a well-earned break after the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Worship With Us

Sunday Mornings

9:00am

Live-stream

[Lifeworks YouTube channel](#)

Other Activities

Keenagers

mainly music

Other interest groups

Youth Group

More details found on the [Lifeworks website](#)

Church Council Report

November 2021

1. Work is to begin on the shed toilet before Christmas but there has been a delay with supplies. Surprise!
2. A payment of \$57,647.87 has been gratefully received for Lifeworks' share of the proceeds of the sale of land bequeathed by Mrs Ellen Free at Westbrook. Mrs Free was a member of the Westbrook congregation.
3. Much discussion was had about a policy re catering for those vaccinated and unvaccinated against COVID when state borders reopen. Uniting Church policy is that all Ministry Agents should be vaccinated. Adam presented a paper which was adopted as the Lifeworks policy which made two clear points. Firstly, we have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable, which includes both categories of people. Secondly, as Christians we are not to judge those who make different decisions from our own but simply to love them. Medical experts on Church Council warned of the likelihood of increased numbers of cases and the Church Council executive have been delegated to make decisions regarding the way forward as the situation becomes clearer. The policy will be distributed to all at Lifeworks.
4. Representatives of Lifeworks Church Council met with FGPMoretton who operate the Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) at Lifeworks during the school holidays, as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which outlines our relationship expires at the end of December. Both Lifeworks and OSHC recognise that the relationship has changed from the one set out in the MoU, as OSHC is no longer really functioning as a 'missional activity' of Lifeworks Uniting Church. We are seeking a new agreement which better reflects the current realities, and allows scope for both Lifeworks and OSHC to flourish. We will commit to pray for OSHC, and while the relationship has changed, we recognise and give thanks for those from Lifeworks congregation who have contributed to OSHC in the past, and those who continue to do so.

5. Work is continuing re researching a possible playground for purchase. A proposal is currently with Synod office.
6. The Australia Day Cricket match, water games and BBQ were approved.

Facing the Possible COVID Outbreak

Services will initially be offered at Lifeworks after the borders open to COVID hotspots. Social distancing and hand hygiene are strongly encouraged and masks are an option. The decision to come or stay at home and access the service online or via USB is yours. Please consider your neighbour's needs as well as your own.

There are three groups of people who are particularly vulnerable:

1. Any unvaccinated persons are extremely vulnerable.
2. Old age lends extra vulnerability although booster shots could reduce this problem.
3. People with certain medical conditions place them at greater risk.

Church Council executive will monitor the situation carefully and if there is a significant outbreak in Toowoomba, services will be cancelled and an alternative form of service will be offered.

Please pray for our congregation, for those tasked with making decisions, and for Adam as he leads us.

If you would like to see the Lifeworks COVID Vaccination Policy, please [click here](#).

Come celebrate
Christmas with us at


Lifeworks
Uniting Church



Christmas Eve – 7pm Carols in Glenvale

Christmas Day – 8am

615 Boundary St, Glenvale

www.lifeworksuniting.org.au

Checking In @ Lifeworks

- Don't forget to check in when you arrive at Lifeworks.
- Download the *Check In Qld* app from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.
- Register your details (required for the first time only).
- Open the camera on your smartphone and hover over the displayed Check In Qld QR code.
- If you need help, just ask!



Giving to Lifeworks

Please continue to give to Lifeworks as you are able. You can choose to give in the following ways:

- Cash can be left in the offering plate on Sunday mornings
- Write a cheque to Lifeworks Uniting Church, and post in the mail to:
PO Box 18093, Clifford Gardens, Qld, 4350
- Electronic direct deposit
Bank: Westpac Bank
Name: Lifeworks Uniting Church
BSB: 034 242
Account Number: 359 011