



Dear friends

God's Creation is amazing. It is a joy to watch new born lambs prance around the paddock with not a care in the world. It is a wonder to watch a large eagle glide across the skies, probably looking for food for its young, who are waiting impatiently in a nest carefully built somewhere nearby.

It's great to watch the changing of the seasons as the grapevines begin to grow leaves and fruit again after appearing barren for a season. The beauty of the stillness on the lake or river, when there is a perfect reflection on the water, all give cause to praise God for the majesty of the creation.

Just recently I watched a short video of a small, yellow bird making a nest from scratch. Firstly, he chose the correct thin limb to hang his nest from and then proceeded to remove any unwanted bits from it. It was situated over a grass field with grass long enough to use it to weave its nest.

I noticed it wasn't easy to begin to create the nest. The small bird needed to get the first piece of grass attached to the limb. It was a bit difficult with just two claws and one beak, and the bird had to keep trying to get that first attachment achieved in order to continue building the nest.

As I watched it succeed in establishing that first task. It reminded me of how difficult it is to get started on a task, sometimes it is because I am not sure where to start, or I might not have the correct equipment or knowledge and I have to do some research. Or it might be that I am afraid I will fail at succeeding, and sometimes it is because of procrastination. Whatever the case I am reminded that God always walks with me and with God's strength I can make the attempt whatever the outcome. As this little bird continued with his weaving (and that is what it was), he would thread the grass into an

already established section and pull it outside with his tiny beak. I was mesmerised. Every now and again with his little legs spread to enable him to balance, he would survey his work and decide what he needed next to continue his building.

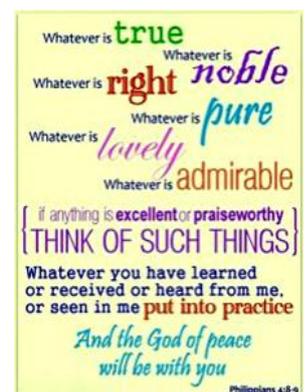
Occasionally, there would be some readjustment of his work. Occasionally, his partner would arrive with some supplies of grass to help with the building of their home. And then the job was finished and he called his mate to come and see. She did and of course made her own adjustments. Using his God-given instincts, purpose and perseverance, this little bird achieved his goal of making a home for his family.

I found that quite moving as I watched it. This little bird doing what he was designed to do by the great creator. And that is what we need to do as well. We are part of the universal family of God. We all have a part to play. We are all gifted in various ways to do what we are called to do. And that changes over time. That little bird, when old, won't be doing the same as he did when he was young.

The story is really about how beautiful God's creation is. We don't need to be a rocket scientist; we just need to be the person that God created and appreciate the creation of God around us, both people and nature. It is in this that we remember that all people are created in God's image, which reminds us that each person was intended to reflect the glory of God. May the glory of God shine through each one of you as you follow Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Blessings,

*Rev Sandy*



## Keeping you up to date with Church News

### COVID-19 update

As you are no doubt aware, due to recent events in South Australia, the Synod Crisis Management Team have been meeting regularly to monitor and review the Coronavirus situation.

To assist in mitigating the situation, yesterday we were requested that our congregations close down for the next two Sundays and to cancel all non-essential church-related events.

**Thanks to David and Glenys Badger**  
we will be able to watch a service on  
YouTube just like before.

**Just go to the Barmera Uniting Church Facebook page and click on the link.**

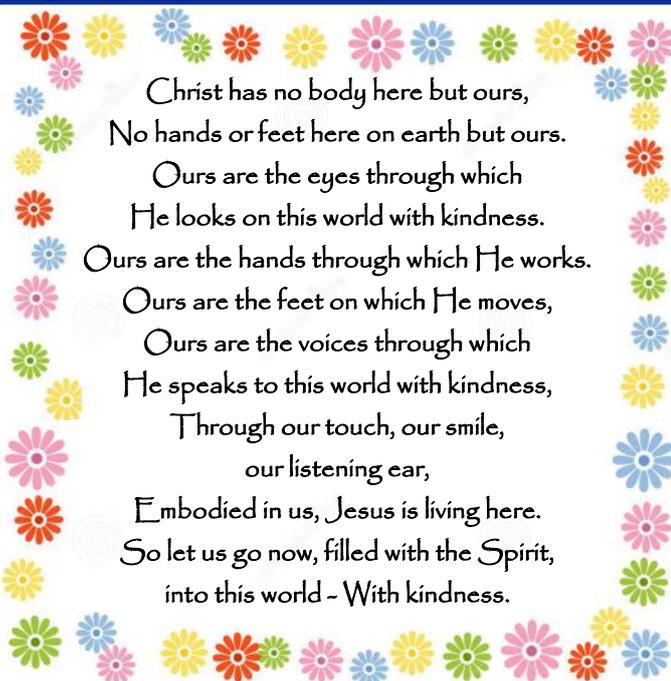


*Be careful  
how you think;  
your life is  
shaped by your  
thoughts.*

*Proverbs 4:23*

### THINGS YOU CAN DO...

- Phone the people you were checking on during the first lockdown.
- Turn off the news & listen to uplifting music.
- Phone a friend
- Weather permitting, sit in the garden with a good book, knitting, or just dream...
- Make something for someone else.
- Cuddle a pet if you have one.
- Put on some dance music.  
Move... on your feet or in your chair!
- Look after your spiritual, physical and mental health. The most influential company is what we fill our minds with.



Christ has no body here but ours,  
No hands or feet here on earth but ours.  
Ours are the eyes through which  
He looks on this world with kindness.  
Ours are the hands through which He works.  
Ours are the feet on which He moves,  
Ours are the voices through which  
He speaks to this world with kindness,  
Through our touch, our smile,  
our listening ear,  
Embodied in us, Jesus is living here.  
So let us go now, filled with the Spirit,  
into this world - With kindness.

### Prayers

Our heartfelt prayers are needed for a number of people in our congregations. Please pray for those whom you know about and let members of our Church Councils if there is any need for a phone call. Unfortunately, no visits are possible at this time.

Blessings on the 'prayers' - this ministry is so important.

We thank God for some signs of improvement in the lives of some of those we have been praying about. We thank God for answered prayer.

**To our God and Father be glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Riverland Christmas Appeal

Monetary donations can still be made

Direct Deposit: BSB 105-052

Account: 210 990 540

Ph. 8580 5300

Email: [riverlandchristmasappeal@hotmail.com](mailto:riverlandchristmasappeal@hotmail.com)



### NEWSLINK

[lilian.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:lilian.cameron@bigpond.com) or ph 0427 619 785