



The Grapevine 13/12/2020

The Vines Uniting Church

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“ARE WE THERE YET?”

1 Thess 5: 16 – 24

This Sunday On Line we are exploring the Advent theme of “Are we there yet?” At first glance this doesn’t seem relevant to our Christmas season, and yet when we think about it, how many times have we felt frustrated when things seems to be taking so long to change! (Just think of this COVID year.)

To help us explore this theme we are going to use Dr Seuss’s story about the Grinch as a platform to consider how, in the midst of our frustration, we can discover something to Rejoice about. The Grinch is a timeless story about a marginalised individual who, through the acceptance of another and despite multiple dramas, discovers a depth of life that seemed impossible at one time.

It could be argued that The Grinch who stole Christmas, is a story about HOPE. Discovering the meaning of Christmas can even grow a Grinch’s heart three times the size, in just a few beats.... Powerful stuff.

Normally this service would have been made richer with the children, parents and team from Mainly Music who due to COVID have gone into recess this year. Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to you all. All the best this Christmas and may you discover the true meaning of Christmas so your hearts may grow bigger.

Peace and good cheer to you all.

Rev DJPrior

JOIN US FOR DECEMBER ON LINE.

OUR MISSION:

*To be a vibrant, growing community of faith,
reaching out in God's love, bringing others to Christ.*



CHRISTMAS BOWL 2020

“As a Christian, Rev Frank Byatt believed he had a responsibility to share the joy of his Christmas with our brothers and sisters in urgent need.

That's why on Christmas Day in 1949, he put a Bowl of Remembrance on the dinner table and asked his family to place a generous gift in it to ‘share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands.’

As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, the legacy of Rev. Frank Byatt has never been more important. For vulnerable communities around the world, the effects of this crisis are catastrophic. Already struggling, they are now being pushed to the brink without the support they need to survive.

Today, tens of thousands of us follow Frank's example each year, sharing God's love through our gifts to the Christmas Bowl. Despite the challenges we face, we have seen that real change is possible.

This year, life has been changed for all of us by the coronavirus. Together we will continue to respond as the church across Australia and commit to loving our neighbours around the world.”

“The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the gospel.”

Rev. Frank Byatt, 1954.

Whilst we won't be providing envelopes at the Vines this year for the Christmas Bowl Appeal, there is still an opportunity for you to give by CALLING 1800 025 101, or by GIVING ONLINE AT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl



CHRISTMAS MARKET



“The Mini Christmas Market” at the Reynella Community Centre is this Saturday 12th December. If you would like to donate items for the stalls- especially baked goods, the church will be open from 3pm-5pm on Friday the 11th for you to drop them off, or they can be brought to the Market on Saturday morning from 9am. Thank you in anticipation.

CHRISTMAS MARKET UPDATE:

“PLAN D for Xmas Market... After further COVID changes and restrictions and opportunities we are pleased to announce that the Christmas Market will now go ahead, in conjunction with the Reynella Community Centre’s market on Saturday, Dec 12th, 10am-2pm. Our conveners have already gathered stock, however, if you would like to contribute that would be very welcome. We will have a section of the car park, under the trees, and will have cakes and produce, sweets, plants, craft and Christmas baskets. All COVID regulations will be observed. We apologise for the short notice, but believe that this is a great opportunity to take the church to the people, rather than hope the people will come to the church!

Contact Marj Dredge or Leon Magrin for further info.



Next Week 20th December - Online

Reverend David Prior

Luke 1:26-38

“King of the Mess”



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Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

***Connect with others and Choose life
'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID
We have to pass on God's love!***



Please send
Newsletter articles for next week to
Colleen Farmer

by 12 noon Wednesday

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