

**We are called to be evidence of
God's love breaking into the world**

Nambour Uniting Church

37-39 Coronation Avenue, Nambour QLD 4560

Rev Maile Molitika - Minister's Message

A Season of Renewal

September is the beginning of the Spring Season in the Southern Hemisphere. I have to say that Spring is my favourite season because I always admire the changes that happen in nature. During winter, we tend to lose a bit of the colourful and the beauty of nature, leaves have already started to fall away from the trees. Some flowers are not blooming because of the cold. We experience cold weather as well, and we need to warm ourselves during this time.

But when spring comes, I always try my best to welcome the new season by taking off my winter clothes. Even though it is still cold, I am telling myself that a new season has arrived. So, I try to let go of the previous season and welcome the beauty of the new. I always wonder how on earth a flower knows it is time to bud and bloom. How do the trees know when to start new leaves? How do the winter flowers bloom during the cold seasons? I know there are scientific explanations of the changing of the Seasons but when I marvel about the beauty of nature, an ugly plant produces a beautiful flower, a thorny cactus produces an amazing flower, how is this so? There must be someone who makes everything happens accordingly, to all creation. **God comes in to the big picture, the Creator of all things seen and all things unseen.**

When we were in Narrandera for 7 years, I love to travel during Spring time because this is the perfect time to observe and marvel the beauty of new flowers, and to see the wonders and the stunning beauty of this marvellous country. The Riverina Presbytery is known with its Sunflower plantations and we have been always overwhelmed with the vast yellow patches along the Newell and the Hume Highways, it goes as far as you can see and that's how big these sunflower plantations really are. There is a quote from Margaret E Sangster that says - **"Never yet a Springtime when the buds forgot to bloom."** Spring in the season of renewal, and we have experience that in flowers and other things. As Christians, we have a need to renew our commitment to Christ at all times and to grow in his love and mercy. For seasons change, so must we, we need to change from grace to grace and go deeper and deeper in our relationship with God. We need to prune at the right time in order to bear fruits.

A quote from Susan C. Young, **"You must prune to bloom. If the dead weight is not pruned and removed, it compromises the quality, performance, and output of the vine. When you prune what's not working in your life, you make the space and place for renewal to happen and for new growth to spring forth."**

Grace & Peace, Rev Maile

NAMBOUR UNITING CHURCH TONGAN CULTURAL DAY

We gathered together as Christians, sharing the gifts of God among our community. Thank you to all the wonderful people that afforded their time, effort and energy for a great day of communion in our Church. Love was shared amongst all who attended and also to those who weren't able to be there, our prayers of thanksgiving are sent to everyone.

God is love, and love is God, praise God's name for the gifts we shared.



The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation.

While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace,
we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other.

As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened, then sent out again for a missional purpose. This copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.



CHURCH EMAIL

FACEBOOK

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

WEBSITE

2022 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website

National Child Protection Week 4th–10th September 2022

National Child Protection Week will continue to embrace the overarching message that

‘Every child, in every community, needs a fair go’.

In particular, this year we will be shining a light on children growing up **safe and supported.**

Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe,
connected and supported in their family, community and culture.

They have the right to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs
- now and into the future.

National Child Protection Week will be looking at what works to keep children safe and supported...
what children are telling us... what families are telling us... what the evidence is telling us...
and how to translate this knowledge into action.

We know that too many children are not growing up safe and supported and that Child Protection
systems are overloaded. There are many opportunities to change the trajectory for these children.
We can stop child abuse and neglect – and reduce its impact – by working together to make sure
every child in every community has a fair go.

Child abuse and neglect is one of Australia’s most significant social problems.

The term ‘child abuse’ includes physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, neglect,
family violence, and children’s exposure to all of the above.

RESEARCH - To solve the problem we must first understand it.

- Too little research has been conducted into the wellbeing and safety of children and young people. In Australia, we do not measure the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, we use the substantiated notifications to our eight State and Territory Child Protection Systems as a proxy, knowing it is a significant understatement.
- Conducting quality research on child abuse and neglect and evaluating the effectiveness of actions and programs to prevent it is essential.
- National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) believes it should be a national research priority to increase the knowledge of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect and effective strategies of preventing it.

CHILDREN MAY “CLAM UP” ...

- when they feel disapproval. • when they are interrupted. • when they feel they are being questioned.
- when they have their pronunciation or grammar mistakes criticised. • when their adult listener is obviously bored or busy doing something else. • when the adult takes over the discussion.

TALKING ABOUT WORRIES

Sometimes children need to talk about worries, but don’t know how to start. Recognise their feelings and gently prompt them. Find the time to listen – and please listen! Find a quiet place where you can give your undivided attention. Help your child talk about their feelings. Find out what they would like to happen before taking over with adult solutions. It might be best to compromise.

If the problem is serious and you need to act, try to stay calm.

STRONG ADULT EMOTIONS CAN SCARE CHILDREN INTO SILENCE!

Don’t ignore these concerns; we all have a responsibility to look out for all the children in our community
(even if we don’t know them personally).

- Remember that one person can make a difference in the life of a child. • Be a good role model, listen to children, and be kind and respectful. • Make it clear that abusive behaviour is never OK.
- Talk to children/young people about respectful relationships.
- Don’t accept excuses for violence, victim blaming, or sexist attitudes.

Please LISTEN to these children!

DAILY PRAYERS

'GOD SPEAKS TO ME'

In our prayers this month we are asking you to add your own personal responses to the thought each day.

Prayers written by the Lay-ministry of Eva Donaldson

DAY 1

I come to God with my real concerns
My life's in chaos – that's how life turns.
God speaks to me through the hug of a friend,
a warm embrace, my tears to tend.
God speaks to me.

I'll never forget.....

DAY 3

I come to God with my deep despair,
I'm shattered through loss – it's just not fair!
God speaks to me with an out-stretched hand –
just hold on tight - I understand.
God speaks to me.

Just let me talk it through with you, Lord.

DAY 2

I come to God with an excited call
Hey, God can you see us – we're having a ball?
God speaks to me through the laugh of a child –
Just share their joy - even if it's wild.
God speaks to me

Come, join in the fun.

DAY 4

I come to God with our troubled earth
Too hot, too cold, what's my bit worth?
God speaks to me of the wind and the seas,
His breath of air moving through the trees.
God speaks to me.

Let's keep up with the re-cycling

DAY 5

I come to God with a joyful heart,
 A babe is born – new life to start.
 God speaks to me through parent love,
 So strong and pure like the Spirit dove.
God speaks to me.

Let's celebrate together, Lord

DAY 7

Like Peter, I come with cap in hand,
 Forgive me, Lord, please understand.
 God speaks to me with a heartfelt sigh,
 You know you're forgiven,
 and you know why.
God speaks to me

Did I apologise?

DAY 6

I come to God with the homeless folk,
 What can I do that's not a joke?
 God speaks to me with a gentle smile,
 'My son was homeless
 a lot of the while.'
God speaks to me.

Thank you, Lord, for your gift of home and life.

EVERY DAY

I come to God with my love and my
 life
 What can I do in this world of strife?
 God speaks to me
 through his body, the church,
 Its people, its faults, its love, its worth.

**Keep me listening,
 please loving Lord,
 and go with us today and every day.**

Church Council Officers

Ian Woodward - Chair

Helen Staines - Secretary

Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer

Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn

Property & Compliance

Church & Office: 5441 1135

37 Coronation Drive NAMBOUR QLD 4560

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: open most Tuesdays and Thursdays

9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

Minister

Rev Maile Molitika 0425 378 174

Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

Nambour Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069



Seeds and Sunflowers!

Its Spring once again and nature is putting on her very best clothes. People will be flocking to WA to see the wildflowers (but we have them here if you care to look carefully), and gardeners are sharpening their tools ready for the busy season. There is something addictive about gardening: as a child did you ever watch a bean seed germinate in the bottle lined with blotting paper?

How fascinating to watch a seemingly dry, lifeless seed burst into life. And how lavish is nature! A single kernel of corn can produce a cob loaded with hundreds of kernels! Without such generosity we humans would not survive.

So, we not only marvel at the mystery of life locked up within a seed, but the incredible bounty which nature provides us... beauty and provision in abundance!

Of course, the first obvious lesson we can learn is the simple adage,
“From little things big things grow...”

A small bunya nut will grow into a mighty Bunya pine; a tiny acorn has the potential to become a huge oak. After all, even we began our lives as a tiny cell the size of a pinhead. We should never underestimate the potential of something small. Many a large business corporation has begun with someone's dream in a backyard garden shed. Nature teaches us to start small, and grow!
Nature provides us with an infinite array of mysteries!

Take just one example, **the Sunflower.**

Did you know that sunflowers are more than just a beautiful flower?

They're also a mathematical marvel. The pattern of seeds within a sunflower follows the Fibonacci sequence (did your maths teacher show you how each number in the sequence is the sum of the previous two numbers), that is, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144 ongoing ...

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In sunflowers, the spirals you see in the centre are generated from this sequence. There are two series of curves winding in opposite directions, starting at the centre and stretching out to the petals, with each seed sitting at a certain angle from the neighbouring seeds to create the spiral. How incredible! And, of course, even educated people will try to tell you this is just a case of “natural selection”.

Some will even go so far as to attribute it to “Mother Nature”. The ancient philosophers believed that the universe was built on mathematics! For people of faith, however, it is simply another affirmation of the incredible mind of God, which underlies and undergirds everything that exists.

But there's something more. God has built into nature a promise of hope and the flowering bulb becomes a sign to us of the qualitatively different life which awaits us beyond this earthly existence. The Easter song puts it beautifully:

In the bulb here is a flower, in the seed an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

(Words by Natalie Sleeth, Hope Publishing, 1986)

So, keep on gardening, and look for signs of God's amazing grace!
Nature is full of them!

Grace and peace, Rev Graham Warne

For further reflection, the **Montville Reflections Gallery** will have a display of Rev Graham Warne's recent photographs entitled “Pathways” throughout September and October at the **Montville Uniting Church**.

The same display will also be presented at **Nambour Uniting Church** on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November (morning only).

God bless, Rev Graham Warne

DAILY BIBLE READINGS SEPTEMBER 2022

2 Links on each day - CLICK on the first reading and last reading to access the daily verses on the Vanderbilt Lectionary website for the Daily Bible readings

- Thursday, September 1, 2022: [Psalm 139:1-6 & 13-18](#); [Jeremiah 15:10-21](#); [Philippians 2:25-30](#); [Psalm 1](#); [Genesis 39:1-23](#)
- Friday, September 2, 2022: [Psalm 139:1-6 & 13-18](#); [Jeremiah 16:14 to 17:4](#); [Colossians 4:7-17](#); [Psalm 1](#); [Deuteronomy 7:12-26](#)
- Saturday, September 3, 2022: [Psalm 139:1-6 & 13-18](#); [Jeremiah 17:14-27](#); [Matthew 10:34-42](#); [Psalm 1](#); [Deuteronomy 29:2-20](#)
- Sunday, September 4, 2022: **Proper 18 (23)** [Jeremiah 18:1-11](#); [Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#); [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#); [Psalm 1](#); [Philemon 1:1-21](#); [Luke 14:25-33](#)
- Monday, September 5, 2022: [Psalm 2](#); [Jeremiah 18:12-23](#); [1 Timothy 3:14-4:5](#); [Psalm 101](#); [2 Kings 17:24-41](#)
- Tuesday, September 6, 2022: [Psalm 2](#); [Jeremiah 19:1-15](#); [1 Timothy 4:6-16](#); [Psalm 101](#); [2 Kings 18:9-18](#)
- Wednesday, September 7, 2022: [Psalm 2](#); [Jeremiah 20:1-18](#); [Luke 18:18-30](#); [Psalm 101](#); [2 Kings 18:19-25](#); [19:1-7](#)
- Thursday, September 8, 2022: [Psalm 14](#); [Jeremiah 13:20-27](#); [1 Timothy 1:1-11](#); [Psalm 51:1-10](#); [Genesis 6:1-6](#)
- Friday, September 9, 2022: [Psalm 14](#); [Jeremiah 4:1-10](#); [2 Peter 2:1-10a](#); [Psalm 51:1-10](#); [Genesis 7:6-10 & 8:1-5](#)
- Saturday, September 10, 2022: [Psalm 14](#); [Jeremiah 4:13-21 & 29-31](#); [John 10:11-21](#); [Psalm 51:1-10](#); [Genesis 8:20 to 9:7](#)
- Sunday, September 11, 2022: **Proper 19 (24)** [Jeremiah 4:11-12 & 22-28](#); [Psalm 14](#); [Exodus 32:7-14](#); [Psalm 51:1-10](#); [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#); [Luke 15:1-10](#)
- Monday, September 12, 2022: [Psalm 94](#); [Jeremiah 5:1-17](#); [1 Timothy 1:18-20](#); [Psalm 73](#); [Amos 7:1-6](#)
- Tuesday, September 13, 2022: [Psalm 94](#); [Jeremiah 5:18-31](#); [2 Peter 3:8-13](#); [Psalm 73](#); [Jonah 3:1-10](#)
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022: **Holy Cross** [Numbers 21:4b-9](#); [Psalm 98:1-5](#); [Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-24](#); [John 3:13-17](#)
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022: [Psalm 94](#); [Jeremiah 14:1-10 & 17-22](#); [Luke 22:31-33 & 54-62](#); [Psalm 73](#); [Job 40:6-14 & 42:1-6](#)
- Thursday, September 15, 2022: [Psalm 79:1-9](#); [Jeremiah 12:14 to 13:11](#); [Romans 3:1-8](#); [Psalm 113](#); [Exodus 23:1-9](#)
- Friday, September 16, 2022: [Psalm 79:1-9](#); [Jeremiah 8:1-13](#); [Romans 8:31-39](#); [Psalm 113](#); [Ezekiel 22:17-31](#)
- Saturday, September 17, 2022: [Psalm 79:1-9](#); [Jeremiah 8:14-17](#); [9:2-11](#); [Mark 12:41-44](#); [Psalm 113](#); [Isaiah 5:8-23](#)
- Sunday, September 18, 2022: **Proper 20 (25)** [Jeremiah 8:18-9:1](#); [Psalm 79:1-9](#); [Amos 8:4-7](#); [Psalm 113](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-7](#); [Luke 16:1-13](#)
- Monday, September 19, 2022: [Psalm 106:40-48](#); [Jeremiah 9:12-26](#); [Acts 4:1-12](#); [Psalm 12](#); [Proverbs 14:12-31](#)
- Tuesday, September 20, 2022: [Psalm 106:40-48](#); [Jeremiah 10:1-16](#); [1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#); [Psalm 12](#); [Proverbs 17:1-5](#)
- Wednesday, September 21, 2022: [Psalm 106:40-48](#); [Jeremiah 10:17-25](#); [Luke 20:45-21:4](#); [Psalm 12](#); [Proverbs 21:10-16](#)
- Thursday, September 22, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-6 & 14-16](#); [Jeremiah 23:9-22](#); [2 Corinthians 8:8-15](#); [Psalm 146](#); [Proverbs 22:2-16](#)
- Friday, September 23, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16](#); [Jeremiah 23:23-32](#); [Ephesians 2:1-10](#); [Psalm 146](#); [Proverbs 28:3-10](#)
- Saturday, September 24, 2022: [Psalm 91:1-6 & 14-16](#); [Jeremiah 24:1-10](#); [Luke 9:43b-48](#); [Psalm 146](#); [Proverbs 28:11-28](#)
- Sunday, September 25, 2022: **Proper 21 (26)** [Jeremiah 32:1-3a & 6-15](#); [Psalm 91:1-6 & 14-16](#); [Amos 6:1a & 4-7](#); [Psalm 146](#); [1 Timothy 6:6-19](#); [Luke 16:19-31](#)
- Monday, September 26, 2022: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Jeremiah 32:16-35](#); [Revelation 3:14-22](#); [Psalm 62](#); [Amos 6:8-14](#)
- Tuesday, September 27, 2022: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Jeremiah 32:36-44](#); [James 5:1-6](#); [Psalm 62](#); [Hosea 10:9-15](#)
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Jeremiah 33:1-13](#); [Matthew 19:16-22](#); [Psalm 62](#); [Hosea 12:2-14](#)
- Thursday, September 29, 2022: [Lamentations 3:19-26](#); [Jeremiah 52:1-11](#); [Revelation 2:8-11](#); [Psalm 37:1-9](#); [2 Kings 18:1-8 & 28-36](#)
- Friday, September 30, 2022: [Lamentations 3:19-26](#); [Jeremiah 52:12-30](#); [Revelation 2:12-29](#); [Psalm 37:1-9](#); [2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37](#)