

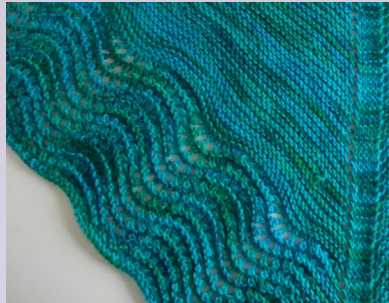


Handcrafted



On a dark, windy November evening, undertaking a craft such as knitting can be a pleasant way to pass the time. November is a good time to make presents for Christmas. When I'm knitting a present for someone, every stitch takes effort and it feels like an item formed with intention and goodwill towards the recipient.

In the Bible, we find that God is a craftsman. Genesis 1 tells us he created the heavens and earth, and other



passages, such as Psalms 139 v 13b, show the care and craftsmanship taken in creation: *'You knit me together in my mother's womb'*.

Now, I am not a perfect crafter. I can get distracted, causing me to drop a stitch or knit tightly. Sometimes, I feel it is better to unravel a project rather than proceed.

However, God the craftsman does not make mistakes. Psalm 139

continues: *'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.'*

God has created a world that is extraordinarily diverse and complex, and he has created us—his people, as craftsmen too. Our craft might not be knitting, some people can create tasty and nutritious meals out of leftovers in the fridge or to spin words into tales

that make our friends laugh. We might have grafted to build a business or build our fitness.

As Christians, we believe that it is not merely by our own skill, but by the craft and skill of God who made this possible. We, humans, are made in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully. We, and what we create, is a remarkable witness to the craftsmanship and skill of God.

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