

Sunday 19th September 2021

WELCOME

Good morning everyone! It's great to be back here to lead you in worship on the Lord's Day.

Let's listen together to these encouraging words from *Psalm 100* -

***Sing to the Lord, all the world! Worship the Lord with joy; Come before Him with happy songs!
Acknowledge that The Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to Him; We are His people, we are His
flock. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, Go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise
Him. The Lord is good; His love is eternal And His faithfulness lasts for ever.***

HYMN 124 Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,

Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do

If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the amen sound from His people again;

Gladly forever adore Him.

Joachim Neander (1650 - 1680)

Translated Catherine Winkworth (1827 - 1878)

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Lord God, how majestic is Your Name in all the Earth!

How wonderful is Your creation. You have made everything there is, out of nothing! There is none like You! You are the Lord of Heaven and Earth. You made the Heavens and the Earth and all that is in them. You set the moon and the stars in their places. You created the sun which shines on us by day and brings us warmth. You created each one of us in Your own likeness, making us just a little lower than Yourself. You love each one of us so much that You sent Your only Son into our world to save us, to rescue us and to bring us back to You. Lord God, we cannot live without You. Help us to show You our thanks this day in our praise and worship. May we tell You just how much You mean to us, thanking You for all that You have done and continue to do in this world and in our lives.

Forgive us Lord for the times we have failed to worship You as we should and have missed out. Let us learn from the mistakes we have made, knowing that not only have You forgiven us, You have chosen to forget all about them. Help each one of us Lord, to forgive others as we have been forgiven by You. Help us to listen to Your Holy Spirit within us, as You seek to guide us through life. Help us to encourage one another in our faith; to build each other up and to pray for those You bring to our minds. And hear us Lord as we pray together in the words which Jesus Himself has taught us:

Our Father who art in Heaven Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever.

Amen

READING

Psalm 8

Read by Elizabeth Davidson

God's Glory and Human Dignity[a]

1 O Lord, our Lord,

your greatness is seen in all the world!

Your praise reaches up to the heavens;

2 it is sung by children and babies.

You are safe and secure from all your enemies;

you stop anyone who opposes you.

3 When I look at the sky, which you have made,

at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places—

4 what are human beings, that you think of them;

mere mortals, that you care for them?
5 Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;[b]
you crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You appointed them rulers over everything you made;
you placed them over all creation:
7 sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too;
8 the birds and the fish
and the creatures in the seas.
9 O Lord, our Lord,
your greatness is seen in all the world!

REFLECTION Psalm 8

What was longest running TV programme with the same presenter?

Here are some clues: the presenter is sadly no longer with us, but was knighted for his services to broadcasting.

It ran for over 55 years with 722 episodes.

Need another clue?

Here's a picture to help you

It's The Sky At Night, with Sir Patrick Moore.

Many years before, King David the Psalmist presented his own version of The Sky at Night - Psalm 8.

The last time I was here I mentioned being out in the Sahara desert.

On some nights we decided to sleep out under the stars, which I can thoroughly recommend, but make sure you do it in good weather! As we lay there in sleeping bags we looked directly up into night sky and it was just awesome! You could see so many stars, I'd never seen so many! They seemed to cover whole sky! One of our number knew a little about the night sky, he wasn't exactly Patrick Moore, but he was able to point out the different constellations and name them. It was just amazing! In middle of the desert, there were no cities or towns or even villages around us, so there were no lights to prevent us from seeing the stars. It was just like being in a Planetarium! Except it was even better, because it was real!

When David was a shepherd boy he would stay with his sheep out on hills all night. He would look up and see moon and stars and begin to think about the One who put them there!

v1: "O Lord, our Lord, Your greatness is seen in all the world! Your praise reaches up to the Heavens..."

v3: "When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and the stars set in their places..."

And in comparison to all that, David himself felt very small and insignificant, just as we did in the desert.

v4: "What is man that You are mindful of Him, mere man that You care for him?"

God, how can you bother about me? I'm so tiny and insignificant compared to all of this. I'm only one out of 7 billion people in the world! How can I possibly be important to You? Yet I am! We all are! You & me are special!

God made me, God made each one of us and He made us to be like Himself.

Gen.1: "Then God said and now we will make human beings, they will be like us and resemble us....

So God created human beings, making them to be like Himself!"

God made you and me to be like Himself! Isn't that just incredible?

Literally v5 means: "You made us lack little of Yourself." You and I were made just one place lower than the Almighty God Himself! Wow! God is always God - He is our Creator. He is above all things. He is above you and me & always will be. But He chose to make you and me just a little lower than Himself. How wonderful is that. How good does that make us feel?

God has appointed you and me as rulers over all His creation!

Gen.1 again: "He created them male and female, blessed them and said, have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of all the fish, the birds & all the wild animals." The Lord our God has given us tremendous authority over His creation. But with great authority comes great responsibility!

If you have a pet, then you more or less have the authority to do what you like with it.

But you also have the responsibility to feed and care & look after that pet and not to abuse that authority!

God has put us in charge of His creation! That's a huge honour and a huge responsibility.

And it's up to you and me to fulfil our responsibility and do the best we can! We have been given a job to do. God trusts us to do it and so we must repay that trust by doing our absolute best.

We must each play our part in caring for His creation!

Remember the parable Jesus told about 3 servants who were put in charge of their master's property while he went away? Each was given different talents of money according to their ability and told to do what they could with the amount they were given?

One was given 5 talents and he made 5 more! One was given 2 talents and he made 2 more! One was given 1 talent & he buried it in the ground! When the master returned he asked them what each had done with what they had been given. The first two were commended: Well done good and faithful servants you have been faithful in small things, now you will be given the opportunity to be faithful in big things!

Come on in and share my happiness! But the man who proudly produced his buried talent was soundly rebuked by his master. Why didn't you take the money and put it in the bank and earn interest on it?

Take the money away from him and give it to the one who has 10. As for this useless servant, throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and grind his teeth! So God has given responsibilities to each one of us, according to our individual abilities. It's up to us, as individuals, what we do with these responsibilities. And we will be rewarded according to how well we use what we have been given! This is an amazing Psalm, the Majesty of God, the wonders of His creation and the honour He gives to each one of us.

But there is more, much more to the Psalm than this!

Jesus Himself quoted part of the Psalm: MATTHEW 21 v 14 -16 *The blind and the crippled came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, "Praise to David's Son!" ¹⁶ So they asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying?"*

"Indeed I do," answered Jesus. "Haven't you ever read this scripture? 'You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.'"

By saying these words, Jesus was telling the Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law, that He Himself was God, because the verse referred to God. It was to Him that the praise was given and so it was right for the children to praise Jesus as they did, because He is worthy of their praise!

"Praise Him, praise Him all ye little children, He is love, He is love! (x2)

"Come children join to sing, Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!"

Jesus is worthy of ALL our praise, no matter what age we are:

"Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy. Thou art worthy O Lord.

To receive glory, glory and honour, glory and honour and praise!

The writer to the Hebrews uses verses from this Psalm.

The writer expands part of the Psalm and tells us who the man, the son of man, in v4....really is.

It is Jesus! - the perfect man! Jesus who, though He truly was the Son of God, never referred to Himself as such, but always called Himself the Son of Man! It is Jesus Christ who is crowned with glory and honour. It is Jesus Christ who is appointed Ruler over everything He has made.

As Paul reminds us in Philippians 2: "Jesus became a human being, He came down to our level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to His death, an extremely painful death on a cross. But because of all this God lifted Him up to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above all names. So that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that JC is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!"

Jesus was crowned with glory & honour because of all that He did for you and me!

Humbling H/self and becoming one of us!

Taking all our sins upon H/self and suffering the consequences of those sins which is death.

All of this He did for you and me!

And that's what we all need to recognise. That's what we all need to admit to ourselves! He did all of that for me! And because of what He did for us, you, if you believe in Him and in what He has done for you, you too will be glorified. You too will be lifted up into God's Almighty Presence! And you too will be able to enjoy His Presence forever and ever and ever!

This is a wonderful Psalm! There is so much in it! But it is completed, it is perfected, it is fulfilled only by Jesus Christ! And that is the same for you and me!

WE are completed. WE are perfected, WE are fulfilled only by Jesus Christ!

WE are completed as human beings only IN HIM! Only when we believe in Jesus as God's Son and in His death in our place! Only then do we become what God our Creator wanted us to be when He made us in His own likeness, when He made us just a little lower than Himself! In Christ we become God's sons and daughters! We become brothers & sisters of Christ! We become heirs of the God the Father!

We become joint heirs with God the Son! All that is His is ours, we inherit it all!

Not because we deserve it, we don't, but because Christ has made it possible for us.

That's why Jesus cried out from the cross: "It is accomplished!" He has done it all for us!

It is Grace - G.R.A.C.E - God's riches at Christ's expense!

So from the seeming irrelevance of man and woman in relation to the vastness of the universe.

From the seeming insignificance of us being just one out of 7 billion;

because of Jesus we are lifted high, into the very Presence of God Himself, where we shall reign with Him forever & ever!

"To Him that overcometh a crown of life shall be.

He with the King of Glory shall reign eternally!"

HYMN Songs of God's People 55 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

1. Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,

for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it -

sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: 'Jesus is Lord!'

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord! Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.

2. Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding -
yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

3. Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror;
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Fan Heafield

Prayer of Intercession: Ashkirk with Ettrick and Yarrow and with Selkirk.

Heavenly Father, you have created us out of your Love and for your Love

You have made our hearts long for you and nothing else will fully satisfy them. Help us to turn to you in our hunger and thirst, that in you and your Love we may find refreshment and life.

You, Lord, are the giver of life in all its fullness. Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for all who sustain us in life with their love and care. Bless those who seek to bring us to the Christian way of Life and all who seek to help to provide us with our spiritual needs. We pray for all the ministers and those working to bring the Christian message as well as those wishing to serve you.

O Lord, we are only too aware of our temptation to place our trust in roles and traditions. We long for you to release in the church such a desire to serve you above all that nothing can be allowed to get in the way of that. Forgive us when we follow rules so slavishly that we ignore the humanity that needs to accompany them. As we pray, we think of all those who give of their time and talents and quietly get on with the many tasks which are needed to help our community flourish.

We pray also for those who are seeking to find you, Lord, but who are struggling with their faith. We ask you to guide any who have lost their way and put too much trust in material things alone.

Lord you alone are our strength and hope.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan, who are continuing to face an uncertain and probably dangerous future. We pray that there may be a generous response to their need for a safe haven and help towards their future needs. May those countries and individuals who are able to respond do so generously. Above all we pray for an end to the political uncertainty and a road to a more peaceful future for all lands where there is war, and strife.

Lord you alone are our hope and strength

O Lord, we remember all the people of the world who are suffering the results of climate change, heatwaves, fires, droughts, floods and other less noticeable ways. We pray for them, and for all the people and organisations which are trying to mitigate these very difficult situations. We pray for those who will attend the COP26 meetings in Glasgow in early November, that they will take seriously the causes of climate change, and the actions that need to be taken to limit it. May they all be willing to cooperate, having in mind the common good rather than self-interest.

We give you thanks for all who work to provide us with food and refreshment. We remember those who provide us with our bread and vegetables, farmers, millers, bakers, grocers and green grocers as well as the shopkeepers. We ask you to guide all who are caught up in materialism and consumerism and we remember, in our prayers, all who have lost sight of the deeper meaning of life. We pray for all who are unemployed, or those finding it difficult to work and those who suffer from hunger and homelessness, all who lack the necessary resources for their well-being.

Lord you alone are our strength and hope.

Lord, we give thanks for our homes and for all who care for us. We pray for our friends and loved ones. We remember our community, its schools and places of work and places of meeting together. May all reflect your glory and love.

Let us be aware of any who are lonely or feel rejected or who are living in an uncaring community.

Lord you alone are our strength and hope.

We give thanks for the renewing power of our bodies and for all who share in the healing and care of others. We pray for all who feel their lives are empty or meaningless, all who feel they have wasted their lives or never fully lived.

Lord you alone are our strength and hope.

Lord we put our trust in you. We believe that in you is the gift of eternal life. We pray that through you and your love we may be brought at the last to the fullness of your kingdom.

Amen

HYMN 154 How great Thou art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art, how great thou art!'*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look up from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

3. And when I think that God his Son not sparing,
sent him to die - I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and dies to take away my sin:
Music Swedish melody 'O store Gud'
arranged Stuart K. Hine (1899 - 1989)

BENEDICTION

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