

LiFT Online – 28th April 2020

Wonder

Welcome to LiFT online. We will be following elements of our usual format with a few tweaks here and there!

Father God, we set this time aside to worship you, to listen to you and to just take joy in being in Your Presence. Help us please to keep our eyes and ears open to see and hear you in this precious time. Amen

We will start our time of worship together with the following song “So Will I (100billion X) by Hillsong United:

<https://youtu.be/C2U7ffUM5Ec>

Please read Psalm 8 through and take note of any words or phrases that speak to you and stay with them for a moment or two.

Psalm 8^{NIV}

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[g] feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Now read again Psalm 8 as written in the Voice:

Psalm 8

¹ O Eternal, our Lord,

Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth;

Your magnificent glory shines far above the skies.

² From the mouths *and souls* of infants and toddlers, *the most innocent*,

You have decreed power to stop Your adversaries
and quash those who seek revenge.

³ When I gaze to the skies and meditate on Your creation—
on the moon, stars, *and all* You have made,

⁴ I can't help but wonder why You care about mortals—

sons *and daughters* of men—

specks of dust floating about the cosmos.

⁵ But You placed the son of man just beneath God

and honoured him like royalty, crowning him with glory and honor.

⁶ You ordained him to govern the works of Your hands,

to nurture the offspring of Your divine imagination;

You placed everything *on earth* beneath his feet:

⁷ All kinds of domesticated animals,

even the wild animals in the fields *and forests*,

⁸ The birds of the sky and the fish of the sea,

all *the multitudes of living things* that travel the currents of the oceans.

⁹ O Eternal, our Lord,

Your majestic name is heard throughout the earth.

Take note of whether the same verses call out to you, or are they different this time?

A time of further reflection:

Hopefully, you have been able to go out into the garden and pick a stem of foliage, in between the showers! Some suggestions to help you listen God speaking to you:

What was it about this piece of creation that helped you to decide to pick it?

As you hold it in your hand, what does it feel like?

Does it have any scent?

Is it fragile or strong?

Are the leaves arranged in groups or single? How are they grafted onto the stem?

If you have a flower/s, take a good look at the make up of it – number of petals, stamen, colour/s, variegated, smooth edges or rough edges

What is God saying to you through this beautiful piece of His Creation?

Please now set aside about 10 minutes of listening time. As always, split the time into two, listening firstly for words for the Church and then for each other. Allow the Lord to place a name or an image of someone in our Church family into your thoughts and then pray for them. Perhaps you could follow through by contacting them, just to let them know that you are thinking of them, and, if you have an encouraging verse, word or picture, please pass it onto them.

https://youtu.be/-oo_a2lKDnY

Eternal Father Gracious King (Lord in Your Mercy) by Ben Slee, Phil Moore, Tim Chester

Intercessions:

Please pray as you feel led. Obviously, there is plenty of content around this current pandemic. Pray for our families, our Church, local communities and the wider world.

Please pray especially for those who have lost loved ones and are unable to give them the funeral and send off that they would have liked, and, those living on their own and especially vulnerable.

Finally, to draw our time together to a close;

Be Thou my Vision

https://youtu.be/6CMclLT_Hjg

May God bless us and be with us through these coming days and months

Keep safe

Margaret x