

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
22nd February 2022**

READINGS

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.
Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

Job 12:7-10

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:13-16, 23-24

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Job 12:7-10

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—
have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without
excuse.

Romans 1:20

REFLECTION

Over the last weeks, it seems like our land has been battered by storms. So far in 2022 we have had named storms Malik, Corrie, Dudley, Eunice and most recently Franklyn. We have all seen the pictures on the news of the winds blowing destruction across the country, with trees ripped up and roofs blown off, rain, snow and floods. It is a reminder to us all that as powerful as we humans think we are, as much as we control so many things in our world, as capable as we are of invention and innovation, in comparison to God's creation we are small fry indeed.

It is sobering to remember our place in creation. But it is also an inspiration for faith. Certainly, that is how the writers of the Psalms saw the world around us. Time and time again as they wonder at the beauty of the world, as they recognize their own small place in the order of things, they are moved to praise God. To see in the greatness of the world around us, pointers towards the glory and majesty of God, who creates all.

As many of our members will know, I enjoy long distance walks. I can recall moments on my walks which have been filled with awe. Times when, faced with a vista laid out before me, I have been moved in ways I cannot put into words. The vastness, the grandeur, the beauty of some sight filling the senses and turning my eyes heavenward in praise as I realise that I am but a creation of a wonderful creator.

But we do not have to go on a long-distance walk or climb a mountain to see the beauty and wonder of God's work around us. Everywhere, every day, around us all, we can find the fingerprints of God. Moments of wonder in the ordinariness of daily life that also turn our eyes heavenward in praise, just like the psalmist of old. From the intricate details of a leaf on a tree to the laughter of a child, and everything and anything in between, we too have opportunities to declare, *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful"* (Psalm 139:14)

Yet too often we miss those moments of wonderful revelation. We miss them because we are too busy, too worried, too concerned, too distracted to recognise the evidence of God's true character around us. We miss those moments because we are not looking for them, because we have stopped expecting God to remind us of his company. And that is such a shame. God is the one who is with us. Throughout the scriptures that message sounds out, from Adam and Eve in the garden, through the history of the people of Israel, through the journeys of the first apostles, all the way to the life of the church, time and time again the faithful discover that whatever the circumstances in which they find themselves, they are never alone – God is with them.

And that remains as true today as ever it was. God is with us now and always. And if you but take the time, you will see the evidence of God's fingerprints all around you every day. So allow yourself that time. The time to look for God. The time to see the fingerprints of God. The time to discover again that you are never alone, the God who is love defined is with you and will never leave you.

Amen

PRAYER

God of majesty and might
God of mountain top and valley
God of beauty and wonder
God whose love and joy is revealed around us everywhere
God who in love is ever with us
Hear our prayer.
Cause us to stop and see
To pause in the midst of whatever it is we are doing
Give us the vision to see your fingerprints of love around us
Open our hearts and our minds and our eyes
To the evidence of your presence.
Move us deeper into faith
Because we know you are with us always
Grant us
In the name of Jesus
Amen

