

Sunday, 12th July

Welcome & announcements:

O Lord my God, I stand and gaze in wonder

on the vast heavens Thy wisdom hath ordained;
sun, moon and stars continue at Thy pleasure,
from nothing called and by Thy power sustained.

*O mighty God, my heart cries out to Thee:
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!
Thy praise shall sound throughout eternity:
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!*

Sometimes I hear the heavens rent by thunder,
or see dread lightning leap across the sky,
then in the cloud I see the promised rainbow
stilling my fears with mercy from on high.

This heart once heard the voice of angels singing,
this earth that wept the day that Adam fell,
for Jesus came from purest heights of glory,
an infant weak, to break the powers of hell.

Nailed to a tree, the great creator suffered
when that dread weight of foulest sin He bear.
Lo! Satan flees! the Lord of glory triumphs!
Nothing can with this mighty love compare.

*Eluned Harrison, b. 1934,
based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1856 - 1940*

Prayer:

Memory verse:

- Last week – Abraham stumbles again.
- This week – Is anything too hard for the Lord?

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's
children, and heirs according to the promise.
Galatians 3:29

From the squalor of a borrowed stable

by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
to the anguish and the shame of scandal
came the Saviour of the human race!
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
shepherds listen as the angels tell
of the Gift of God come down to man
at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
humble servant in the Father's hands,
filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
joys and sorrows that I know so well;
yet His righteous steps give me hope again -
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
and with a shout our souls are free -
death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
crowned with glory on the highest throne,
interceding for His own beloved
till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
but the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
giving glory to Immanuel!
(repeat last 4 lines)

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Prayer:

Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:
After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together, she was found with
child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man,
and not wanting to make her a public example,
was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be
afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which
is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall
call His name Jesus, for He will save His people
from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled
which was spoken by the Lord through the
prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear
a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"
which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did
as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took
to him his wife,
25 and did not know her till she had brought forth
her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the son of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Come, Desire of Nations, come,
fix in us Thy humble home;
rise, the woman's conquering seed,
bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface,
stamp Thy image in its place;
Second Adam from above
reinstate us in Thy love.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Sermon:

**'What you need to know about
Jesus of Nazareth.'**

Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony.
the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity
dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility,
and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
meekness and majesty,
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God.*

Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross:
suffering to give us life,
conquering through sacrifice,
and as they crucify,
prays 'Father, forgive.'

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.

Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 © 1986 Thankyou music

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