

## Order of Service – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 10:45,**

The lifting of lockdown restrictions means we are now meeting in person at Bethesda Chapel once again. As everyone is not yet able to return, we still plan to use our YouTube channel to broadcast a recording of the services, and will continue to provide this written service sheet. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we all seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

**Our service today is led by Colin**, who welcomes us all, with a special welcome to those who may be watching the recording later. He begins by reading Psalm 19.1-4

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

Colin invites those at Bethesda to stand if they wish, as **Tim plays the piano** for us to sing our first hymn: **'O Worship the King' - if you are at home you may wish to read the words, or you can sing it aloud!**

O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing his power and his love!  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,  
hath 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies, how tender! How firm to the end!  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless might, ineffable Love,  
while angels delight to hymn thee above,  
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration shall all sing thy praise.

Robert Grant  
Public Domain, CCL no 5664

### **Colin leads us in prayer:**

“Our Creator God, we come before you this morning to bless your holy name. Your glory and majesty are beyond our understanding, Your power too awesome to behold. And yet your love enfolds us like a gentle breeze. Yes, Lord, your glory is all around us in everything we see: in the beauty of the world and the night sky, in every living thing, in the trees and flowers, in the birds of the air, and in the animals we have as our household companions. Even in that glorious rainbow I saw last week. From the rising of the sun and the going down of the same your name is indeed to be praised. Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship, for the freedom to be amongst your family meeting together in your house, and in the warmth of your embrace. Thank you that in worship we can put aside the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of your Kingdom, for your promises are not changeable as those of a politician might be, but pure and perfect, immovable and eternal. Thank you that we can bring into your presence all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them there, knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we need through the spiritual blessings that are ours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

**We share in Communion together, led by Colin. He invites those who will be distributing the bread and wine to join him at the front of church, and Joy and Janet move forward.**

“John’s Gospel tells us that the One who spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush on the eve of the great Passover deliverance was indeed the one who walked the streets of Palestine and declared to his lost generation ‘Before Abraham was, I AM.’ Last week, we celebrated the remarkable truth that Jesus is the Light of the world and in him is no darkness at all. On another occasion he declared ‘I am the bread of life.’ If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that he gave for the life of the world was his broken body, his death on the Cross as our sacrificial Lamb, for he could also say that ‘I am the good shepherd, who gives his life for the sheep.’ And so the gospel of Christ proclaims the glorious message of Jesus: ‘I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.’ We acknowledge this morning our many failings before you, but we rejoice because your Word tells us that your grace and mercy is more than sufficient for all our sins. And so we are those who can say this morning with the Psalmist ‘Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven,’ who can say in sure faith and constant hope ‘The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.’ And so, as we take this bread, may we feed on him who declared to his followers at his Last Supper: ‘Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this to remember me.’

Let us pray: ‘Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross for our redemption, and for raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall all share. We give you thanks for this bread, a symbol of

his broken body and of your transforming love. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may be renewed into the likeness of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for his name's sake. Amen.'"

**Joy and Janet distribute the prepared bread** whilst Tim quietly plays the piano

**After all have eaten, Colin continues:**

"In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: 'this cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.' Your word tells us that there is life - indeed, eternal life - in the blood of Jesus our Saviour, for he could say 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, unless they come by me.' We thank you, our Heavenly Father, for that moment in our lives when you called us to yourself and granted us the faith to believe and brought us into your family. For Jesus also declared that 'I am the True Vine and my Father is the one who cultivates the vine.' And to be part of that Vine is to be part of the Body of Christ; and to have fellowship with Christ is to have fellowship with one another together in Christ. We are branches of the vine here at Bethesda. The quality of our communion with our Saviour, and the fruit we grow is based on the quality of our communion together in the Lord. And so as we take the wine and drink it together, we acknowledge our dependence on our Saviour and on one another. We drink it as a sure sign that our Lord is coming again and that our blessed hope is that we will share in the great supper of the Lamb, for he could also say 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

Our Loving and Merciful God, through his life and death Jesus declared your love and opened the gate of glory for us. We give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we in and through the Holy Spirit live his risen life, and show forth his fruit of righteousness day by day. Keep us firm in the blessed hope you have set before us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

**Janet and Joy distribute the wine**, which is retained for all to drink together, whilst Tim continues to play the piano quietly: To be in your presence.

**"This is the blood of Christ" - all drink.**

**Janet and Joy return to their places, and Colin shares the notices for this week.**

Refreshments after the service

- Coffee Morning; Ladies' Study @ 2pm
- Colin shares that last Thursday a group went to Padiham to hear various speakers from the Christian Institute as they spoke powerfully about biblical perspectives on Identity issues. This week the Fellowship Meeting, a prayer meeting, will be on Thursday @ 7.30pm
- Operation Christmas Child, boxes will need to be ready by November 21st.
- The Knife Angel, on tour and in Blackburn, is a very impressive sculpture made from 100,000 seized and surrendered knives, highlighting the danger of knife crime.
- Alec shared that on Monday, tomorrow, a speaker, Stuart, known to Alec from the Open Air Mission will be in Blackburn Town Centre, at 11.30am and would appreciate prayer and support if anyone is in town at the time.
- He also shared that Bethesda Chapel had hosted a meeting of the Japan Mission, using the Internet to speak to representatives in Japan, working and teaching English. (This was a last minute request because of illness )

**Jane leads us in our prayers today:**

"Heavenly Father, we come to you today to thank you for all the good gifts you give to us day by day. We thank you for our homes, families and friends and our church family; for our daily food, clothes to wear, work to do and many leisure activities to enjoy. We confess that we take many of these things for granted when others, both in this country and across the world, are so short of the bare necessities of life. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to show our gratitude for your provision by a new willingness to share what we have, to conserve resources and not be so wasteful in the way we lead our lives.

Forgive us, Lord, for the way your beautiful world is being devastated by the greed and carelessness of mankind. We pray for the world leaders meeting at the COP26 conference in Glasgow. Help them to make lasting agreements to effectively tackle and reverse the affects of global warming and may the richer nations willingly take steps to support the poorer countries to be able to do their part. May all leaders understand the urgent necessity to make changes in their own countries and guide each one of us to do our part, small as it may seem, that your world may be redeemed.

Lord, we have been seeing on our televisions the many thousands who have been marching because of climate change, many of them young people. It is encouraging that they are so motivated to take peaceful action for the benefit of future generations and their own. At the same time, we hear reports of young teenagers using knives and guns to take the life of another, seemingly for no reason at all. We do pray for children and young people across our land, that they may turn away from senseless violence and be motivated to use their time and energy for good. In this respect, we pray for the tour of the Knife Angel as it goes from town to town raising awareness of knife crime and now it has arrived in Blackburn. We pray for the team from The Message as they go into schools here over the next month, that they will be able to connect with the youngsters and many would be challenged to take seriously what they hear and then attend the concert at the cathedral at the end of the month to hear more about Jesus; may He become the true motivation in life for many. We pray that the churches would be ready to give their support.

Father, we bring you our prayers for individuals. We thank you for the recent news from Brian and Jackie Chilvers, our mission partners. Thank you that they are getting more used to the very different cultural situation in Chad and they are able to use their medical skills and experience to support each other and bring in some innovations to supplement the sparse resources in the hospital there. We pray you would continue to bless their work and help them develop their language skills and be to them all that they need.

We pray for our church family here that we may be truly united through the sacrifice of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that others may see and believe because of your love that we share. We pray for all who grieve - bring your comfort, Lord; we pray for all who are unwell, bring your healing, Lord; we pray for all who are weak - give your strength for each day, Lord; we pray for any who feel they have lost their way - show them your love to redirect them back to you, Lord. Help each one of us to look to you daily for your provision, strength and guidance, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen"

**We can lift our voices in song again** if we wish or we can read the words in our hearts or aloud, to the Getty and Townend Song: **Creation sings, shown join the screen at Bethesda**

Creation sings the Father's song;  
he calls the sun to wake the dawn  
and run the course of day,  
till evening comes in crimson rays.  
His fingerprints in flakes of snow,  
his breath upon this spinning globe,  
he charts the eagle's flight,  
commands the newborn baby's cry.

Hallelujah!

Let all creation stand and sing: "Hallelujah!"

Fill the earth with songs of worship,  
tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon his face;  
the ageless One in time's embrace,  
unveiled the Father's plan  
of reconciling God and man.  
A second Adam walked the earth,  
whose blameless life would break the curse,  
whose death would set us free  
to live with him eternally.

Hallelujah!.....

Creation longs for his return,  
when Christ shall reign upon the earth;  
the bitter wars that rage  
are birth pains of a coming age.  
When he renews the land and sky,  
all heaven will sing and earth reply  
with one resplendent theme:  
the glory of our God and King.

Hallelujah!....

Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend

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CCL. No 5664

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf8xKiC1dq05>

**Colin introduces COP 26**, which is taking place in Glasgow at the moment. We will be looking at some of the issues raised by this, in relation to creation, over 3 Sundays.

Today we look at the wonder of creation, and the beauty of our world and the Universe Colin reminds us that these conferences started in Germany in 1995, and shares some thoughts:

"Things I heard being expressed:

- Earth is being killed; Mother Earth is dying.
- CC is killing people now
- CC will affect future generations.

Things I never heard:

- God has created all things.
- We are answerable to God the Creator for the way we are treating his Creation.
- Humans were created in the Image of God to be stewards of this wonderful world."

He then displays a picture of the Earth  
"The Blue Marble Earth"



This photo was taken in 1972 by the Apollo 17 crew from a distance of 18 000 miles from the earth's surface as the spacecraft was on its way to the Moon. It was the first colour photograph of the earth, and is an amazing photograph, it is a wonderful image showing the beauty and majesty the earth yet looking fragile, frail and vulnerable. This photograph kick-started the environmental movement.



For the second picture of the earth, I want us to go on a journey through the solar system with the help of the Voyager Spaceprobes- there are two of them, and they set off from earth in 1977." **(Colin actually used some bluetac stuck on a chair in front of the platform, to represent the earth, and the pulpit as the sun and talked about distance in terms of astronomical units, which Tim understood but probably most of us are content to know the planets are a very very very long way away!**

He showed the photographs taken by Voyager 1 of: Mars – 1.5 AU away – Half the size of the earth





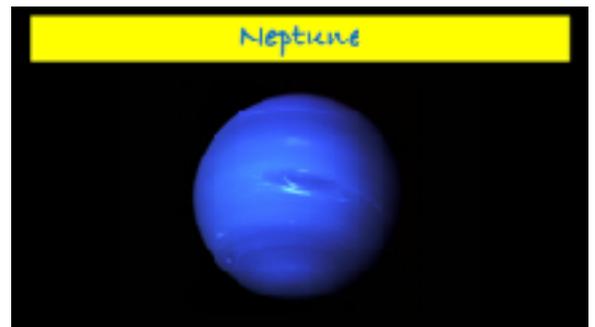
Jupiter – 5 AU away – 10 Times the size of the earth

Saturn – 10 AU away

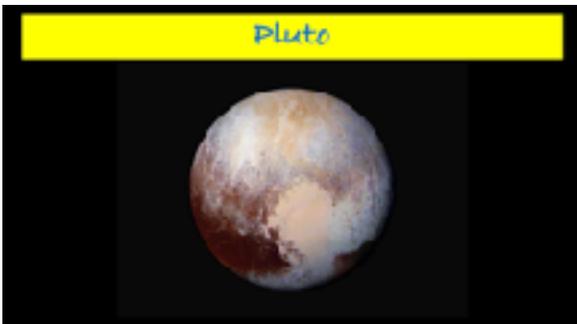


Uranus – 20 AU away

Neptune – 30 AU away – , which takes 165 earth years to orbit the sun



Pluto – 40 AU away, – 248 – New Horizons (2015)



And then the camera was adjusted to take a photograph of earth from Pluto: The Pale Blue Dot  
This photo was taken in 1990 by the cameras on the space probe Voyager 1 from a distance of nearly 4



billion miles (or 40 AUs = the orbit of Pluto), before it left the planetary solar system. The earth appears as a pale blue dot less than a pixel in size, against the vastness of space, highlighted by bands of sunlight reflected by the cameras.

Awesome. In some ways, even more arresting than the first one, even though you can't see much. But in a way that's the point: on one level the earth can appear so utterly trivial and insignificant.

Carl Sagan, the leading American astrophysicist at the time, and an atheist, said this:

'Look ...at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives.... every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.'

But even the biblical writers were well aware of the seeming unimportance of humans in the vast scale of things, and yet they reach a different conclusion to Carl Sagan.

Psalm 8: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Where is Voyager One now?

!990 – 30+ years – 4X = 160 AUs equivalent in the scale we've been using today to the other side of St Luke's!

The nearest star in our galaxy is Alpha Centauri. It will take Voyager One 70 000 years to get there, even though it is travelling at about 36 000 miles /hour = 30 miles to Blackpool in 3 secs!!

**After that science lesson, Genesis 1:1-5/26-2:3 is read by Joy**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

**At Bethesda, we were able to watch a video on the screen.** It showed 3 young ladies singing and signing to a catchy tune about creation:

1-2-3-4-5-6-7

On day number 1 God made light, he made the day and he made the night;  
on day number 2 God made the sky, its big and blue and way up high, oh oh oh.

On day number 3 God made the sea, he made the land, every plant and tree;  
on day number 4 God made the stars, he put the sun in the sky, super duper far, oh oh oh.

God made you and God made me, he made every one and everything we see  
He made the earth and he made the heavens. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7

On day number 5 God made birds and fish, dolphins and whales and things that go squish;  
on day number 6 God made animals and bugs, foxes and cubs, all for us to hug, oh oh oh.

On day number 6 God also made man, he said it was good and part of his plan;  
on day number 7 God stopped to rest, he saw what he'd made, it was his best, oh oh oh.  
God made you and God made me....

Saddleback Kids  
CCL No 5664

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWgC62KGsKM>

**Colin shares his message:**

## 'Celebrating Creation'

There are few passages in the Bible that can cause such heated argument like our reading this morning from the Book of Genesis. And so, when you study this passage, it is so easy to become distracted by 'The Great Debate', as we may call it, between Scripture versus science; with creationists on the one side and evolutionists on the other.

But this morning, I want us to put this tormented debate to one side and concentrate on what, I believe, was the real reason why this passage was revealed in the first place, and that is, God wanted us to share with us the wonder of his Creation. It wasn't written for clever scientists to pour over and critically analyse, but for the likes of you and me and people of all climes and times. For the opportunity to study the Universe and the natural world is a supreme delight. As Psalm 111.2 tells us: *'The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who take pleasure in them.'*

So, for our study of this great Creation Story this morning, I would like us to consider briefly two of its major themes:

### **1. The Greatness of God the Creator**

Not many of the scriptures in the world religions start with the creation of the world, but the Jewish-Christian Scriptures certainly do, and for a very important reason: for the Bible teaches that God is sovereign over everything. He is the Alpha and Omega of life. He is the sovereign Lord of the Universe because he created all things, who judges all things and will one day bring to fulfilment the purposes for his Creation, as we find in the last book of the Bible. Our reading from Psalm 24, declares: *'The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fulness, the world and those who dwell therein.'*

So, the Bible commences with the amazing truth: 'In the beginning God.' Before space and time existed, God was eternally present. He is the Supreme Personal Being or Spirit. He has no beginning and no end. He is the Almighty, who is perfect in righteousness and abounding in love. And he 'created the heavens and the earth.' He created all things freely and not out of any necessity. The Hebrew verb *bara*, translated 'created' in Genesis 1.1, 21, 27, has an absolute meaning, telling us that God brought into existence something that had not previously existed in any shape or form. He did not need to go to some cosmic B&Q store to get himself a DIY Universe kit. He brought about a world from nothing and infused it with his supreme mathematical and artistic genius. He is the First Cause behind the appearance of the Universe.

Notice, he commanded things into existence: that is all it took! For according to Proverbs 3: *'The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, and by understanding he established the heavens.'* And so, 'God said "Let there be light," and there was light.' He is the great originating Mind behind this fantastic world. He is majestic and all-powerful; he delights in beauty and excellence. And like a great artist and architect, he looked at what he had created and declared it 'good.' It was exactly in accordance with his divine plan. His initial purposes had been realised to the full. We live in a Designer Universe, with the label 'Creation' written on it. Nothing was missing and nor was anything not quite as he wanted it to be. Everything was perfect! Psalm 19 pronounces: *'The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork.'* And the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans that *'since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead.'* In other words, the greatness of Creation reflects the greatness of the Creator. Even at this time of year, as we head towards winter, the colours of autumn display a wonder that is utterly arresting. This beauty in nature is not a mere accident, the result of a mindless process, as atheists believe, but is in fact an intrinsic part of a world that has been created by a Deity who delights in splendour and excellence. When we rejoice in Creation, in 'All things bright and beautiful', in the flowers on our mantelpiece or the affections of our pet cat or dog, just to keep it all very simple, it is very difficult as Christians, as I'm sure you'll agree, not to be caught up in praise of our great Creator

God, the Christ of Creation. As the hymnwriter put it in his hymn 'Loved with everlasting love': 'Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen: birds with gladder songs o'erflow, flowers with deeper beauties shine, since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.'

### **The Greatness of Man the Creature**

Humans were created last of all, on the sixth day, following the animals, showing that we share a common nature, at least in a physiological sense. Anyone who has a dog or cat will, I'm sure, be well aware of these similarities. But unlike the animals, God created humankind, both male and female, in his own image and in his own likeness. This is an incredible statement: we were created in the Creator's own image. Of course, this doesn't refer to anything physical, because God is not part and parcel of this material universe, for he is Spirit and transcends it, though there will come a time, as we know, when he did share in our earthly nature. We are coming to that time of the year when we celebrate the Incarnation and the coming of God in human form 2000 years ago as a baby born in Bethlehem's manger, the man Jesus of Nazareth. And thus, once again, we can utter with the Psalmist, from Psalm 8: *'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him?'*

So, what does this text mean when it states that we were created in the image of God? Well, look at all the verb formulations in our Genesis passage involving 'God': God created, God commanded, God considered, God called or classified, God constructed, God collected, God calculated and controlled, God consecrated, God commissioned, God celebrated and God completed – you get the point! And there are others from the next two chapters: God communed with, God cared for, and God criticised and condemned. It is in our spirits, our hearts and minds, in our abilities and capacities, in our unique nature as human beings, that we share in the divine nature. And these similarities are indeed real; they are not pretend, even though God's powers are infinitely greater in what they can achieve. It is because of these similarities that we are able to work out the mysteries of the Universe and of life on planet earth. To Einstein this fact was the greatest miracle of the Universe. Not only is the Universe intelligible, but that humans have minds that are tuned into this intelligibility – they are hard-wired to make sense of life. That is why we have science and mathematics, art and music, because God has given humankind the ability to share in his remarkable creativity, whether it is in the arts or technology. Once again, it is easy to take this remarkable phenomenon for granted, but this fact of life needs an explanation. For if the atheist is right – that everything is merely the product of some mindless process – how is it possible that humans have the mental capacity to solve the mysteries of life? They have no answer. To them it is merely a brute fact of existence, like so much else in this world. But the Bible tells us something quite different and that is we were made in the Image of God the Creator. Or, to use the term that some Christians have suggested: we are God's co-creators. Wow!

And finally, notice what great commission God gave to his iconic creatures: *'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'* To the extreme environmentalists and animal rights activists, and to those Extinction Rebellion and Insulate Britain people who have been gluing their faces to roads recently, this verse is the cause of all our problems in the developed world, for they claim it commands us to do whatever we like to the world that God has created and to the creatures that share this planet with us. But does it? Does it really tell us to treat the natural world with contempt? To bring wild animals to the point of extinction? I think not! Yes, we have been given custodial, if not managerial rights, over the natural world, but such rights imply the responsibilities of stewardship and not those of an invading army that lays waste to what they have conquered. We are to 'subdue' it in the way that we manage its resources and advance technology. Medical advances are a prime example of this. We have been given custody of this world to treat it with respect. We have been made in the Image of God, so we must ask at all times WWGD or WWJD? Yes, we are allowed to use its resources and

animals for our own good, but not to misuse or abuse this privilege. Notice for example in the list of the Ten Commandments, that his chosen people were commanded to rest their working animals on the sabbath in the same way that they were to rest. And so, as servants of our Great King, we are answerable to him every time we litter the countryside and besmirch his wonderful creation. Surely we would not do that! As Christians, we should be concerned about what humankind in its greed and wanton materialism, is doing to the world that Christ has created for us to enjoy. We should be willing to support those Christian organizations, like TEAR Fund, that are working to create a world that is fit for future generations, including our children and grandchildren, to live in.

### **Tim plays the piano for our final hymn, How great thou art**

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds Thy hands have 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.'

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
and see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:  
Then sings my soul....

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 died to take away my sin.  
Then sings my soul....

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;  
then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
and then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul...

Songwriter: Stuart Hine

How Great Thou Art Lyrics © 1949 Sony/atv Tree Publishing, Universal Music Publishing, I Am They Publishing, Manna Music Inc  
CCL no 5664

**Benediction:** we share in saying together:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.**

**NB Church Members Meeting Tuesday November 16th 7.30pm at Bethesda Chapel.**

