

Sunday 24th July 2022

NKMC Online Worship

Bart Woodhouse

Welcome

StF 82 – 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 rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to
Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

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, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

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, my Saviour God to
Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Declaring our faith with the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of intercession

God of this moment,
We pray for people meeting to worship you
today, especially those who have to do so in
secret and in fear.

God of this day,
We pray for all who will find this day difficult,
particularly those living in the countries and
communities where All We Can is working –
in places where there has been a recent

disaster, or the long-term effects of poverty are impacting the local community.

God of this week,
We pray for political and societal leaders around the world, in the face of difficult decisions this week, and with the responsibility to do all that they can to bring about a better, fairer, more just world, we pray for wisdom and grace for each and every one of them.

God of this year,
We pray for all who are working to seek a better world – from the staff teams of relief agencies working in refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar and Za’atari, through to those who volunteer for and donate to charities who are committed to seeking justice and human dignity. Give each of us the courage to play our part in that work today, O Lord.

God of every moment,
Help me to be an answer to prayer for somebody else this day.
Amen.

| Lord’s Prayer

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.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

| SoF 780– How Deep the Father’s Love

| Readings:

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[b] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Sermon

Looking at the Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (Chapters 12 & 13)

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus and his pattern of life and teaching in faith and obedience.

A disciple can only be a disciple in an through the grace of Christ and by the transforming power of Holy Spirit. It is not simply the result of self-effort, in fact it is the complete opposite, it is a gift and a calling into which we surrender ourselves.

An interesting Greek word, “perisson” is used in Matthew 5:47 to ask the question, how are we *more than* the pagans and tax collectors. Bonhoeffer explores this Greek word and reads it in the more literal sense of “perisson” by exploring its meaning *extraordinary*. He asks, how are we living the extraordinary life of discipleship that stands out like a city on a hill or a lamp on its stand. Loving our enemies and living out the challenges of the Sermon on the Mount is a pattern of life and discipleship that causes us to stand out, to be extraordinary, to declare a different ethic, way of life, and reveal the Kingdom.

The Greek word “perisson” is also used in John 10:10 when Jesus teaches that he offers us life and life in all its *fullness*. The life that Jesus offers is not an abundance of blessings or an easy life necessarily, but rather, sticking with Bonhoeffer’s rendering of the Greek, Jesus is offering a life that will be extraordinary, stand out, and be obviously different to the culture that surrounds us. This is both a blessing, we are living out the Kingdom and the love and grace of Christ, and a cause of exclusion and persecution. We maybe too enthusiastic for people, to committed to an out of date Bible, to wedded to an irrelevant ethical ideal. We stand out as disciples, both in love of the world, our enemies, and most importantly, our devotion to Jesus. Being a disciple is a full life but as we follow Christ we will be in opposition and stand out against the backdrop of a world on a different journey.

The full life is the life of the disciple, it’s costly and yet the place where transformation and miracle can happen, it’s a life that announces the coming Kingdom and it’s coming King!

By the in filling of the Holy Spirit and by grace alone we can, in prayer and surrender become day by day disciples that live the full life and are extraordinary in a fallen world.

Amen

| MP 712 – Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

His word shall not fail you he promised
Believe him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
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| Blessing