

## The Wonder of God - Reflection Service



(image:mwassemblies of God)

We take a breath and come into God's presence.

Holy Spirit draw us close and minister your grace to us. May we recognise your presence in our midst. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

### **Reflection**

These poetic verses beautifully express the almighty and everlasting nature of God, the Holy One. And stand in direct contrast to the transient and fragile nature of our own being.

They offer comfort and hope. We will be held. We will soar again like eagles. All will be well in the completion of time - I'm not sure if I have much else to say today!

The words are timeless but were likely originally set at a time of enforced exile following Jerusalem's fall to the Babylonians. Earlier chapters in Isaiah speak of warning and judgement, but this now changes. We see God does not leave her people broken hearted and has comfort to offer them – to offer us.

Isaiah reminds them of the greatness of God 'Have you not known? Have you not heard?' Isaiah's awe is contagious. Indeed can we not but see Gods wonder and glory all around in the design, intricacy and beauty of creation and one another?

David Guzik in Enduring Word draws our attention to Isaiah's description of God as 'the one who sits above the circle of the earth' (verse 22). And this recorded at a time when the earth was not known to be round! How could he know? He probably didn't, but the One who spoke through Isaiah whose breath is over all scripture did! The framing of God outside of the circle – the world- points us to God being above and over all creation. Above and over all time. All things are held together in God's hands. God neither faints nor grows weary – but built into our life Sabbath rest as we do in contrast grow faint and weary. It is in our weakness that he gives strength. We are encouraged when we are feeling weary to look up – to look up at the sky, the stars, the wonders of creation. To look up and see God.

The people were tired, not just with what they were experiencing and facing, but in the effort of conceiving what it would take to restore things. We as a people are tired and uncertain. But God speaks to us through Isaiah's words. We will be again be renewed. Amen.

### **Worship Music**

Immortal Invisible:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oGuGzCFEWI&ab\\_channel=ChetValleyChurches](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oGuGzCFEWI&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches)

Ancient of Days:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJUtaW21qAM&ab\\_channel=musicmeetsheaven](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJUtaW21qAM&ab_channel=musicmeetsheaven)

Rock of ages:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah6xIq4mL0I&ab\\_channel=Discipling1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah6xIq4mL0I&ab_channel=Discipling1)

You are the everlasting God:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yubLGT0cm8c&ab\\_channel=EdgarCaina](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yubLGT0cm8c&ab_channel=EdgarCaina)

What a friend we have in Jesus - Lucy Gibson attached

### **Sharing of Peace**

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Almighty God, Holy One, Creator of all we praise and magnify you.

Thank you for the beauty and diversity of our world;

For all your seen and unseen blessings to us.

For your faithfulness and care through-out all generations, times and seasons.

Amen.

We pray for all who have been hospitalised, and for those who care so diligently for them. For health and hospital staff, emergency services and carers.

For those who have had lifesaving and pain diminishing surgery postponed, for those with long Covid and chronic pain.

We give thanks for the vaccines and pray for their generous role out throughout the world.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for our schools and colleges, for staff, students, and families.

For those feeling overwhelmed.

Those whose mental health is strained.

Those feeling alone and missing physical contact.

For those in poverty, and those who seek to address it.

Those struggling to find work. Those who have lost jobs and businesses, and those in financial insecurity.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for our government and world leaders at this difficult time in history.

For church, faith and community leaders.

May those in positions of power lead with integrity, justice, and a desire to serve as servants after God's own heart.

For peace in Syria, Myanmar, Yemen and Mozambique.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind and spirit .....

Heal, hold and comfort them with your presence and be with those who tend and worry for them.

Give peace in grief, and welcome all those recently departed into your eternal kingdom where pain and tears are no more.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

*We take a moment to lift the prayers of our own hearts before God ....*

We commend ourselves and the whole of creation to God's unfailing love. **Amen.**

Joining all our prayers together we say the prayer our saviour taught us:

**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 them that 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.**

### **Blessing**

The love of God hold you;  
The power of God strengthen you;  
The joy of the knowledge of God fill your heart;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those whom you love always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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