

God created people in His own image as the pinnacle of His creation. He gave people brains containing millions of cells, which are the only cells in the body which are not renewed. God blessed people with the capacity to be creative. Human creativity can never match that of the original Creator God. The seven colours forming the spectrum of the rainbow, God's promise in the sky, still draw people to look. When a double rainbow appears, it causes people to marvel with images shared on Facebook. A superb sunrise or glorious sunset spread across the sky, also leads people to capture the image with their cameras, often choosing to share their picture of God's handiwork on social media. Such natural phenomena have provided the inspiration for artists over the centuries, often painted as a tribute to Creator God. The amazing phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis depends on the solar wind conditions at the time. The Northern Lights inspire a feeling of awe, as their colours declare the glory of God, proclaiming the work of His hands.

Hymn:

STF 94/H&P 463/MP 708/SOF 559 **To God be the glory great things He has done**

Prayer:

Creator God, We thank you that we can behold in the skies your glory, displayed in the phenomena of the stars and planets, the rainbows and lights, proclaiming the work of your hands. We see around us people too, created in your image, sharing your love in the world. Lord, we worship You the Creator of all. Amen.

Blessing:

May the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you and with those you love, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Darlington District Worship at Home

Sunday 7th March 2021

By Meg Gilks North West Durham Circuit Tutor

Call to Worship:

Psalm 66 v 2: Shout with joy to God all the earth. Sing the glory of His name. Make His praise glorious. (NIV)

Hymn:

STF 88/H&P 16 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation**

Prayers:

Creator God, we come before you to offer you our worship, knowing that we are unworthy, yet knowing too that you accept us in all our human frailty. We praise you Lord for you are the Almighty, the King of creation.

Lord we repent of the deeds, words and thoughts which this past week have not been honouring to you. Forgive us Lord for the things we have not done which we know we should have attended to. Father God, we receive your forgiveness, your cleansing and restoration into a right relationship with you.

The Lord's Prayer: **Our Father...**

Hymn:

STF 519/MP 133/SOF 97 **Father I place into your hands**

Prayers of Intercession:

Creator God, we lift to you the areas of our world where there are situations of conflict or disaster, where people too often lack the basic necessities of life. We pray for your hand of protection to be upon the aid workers seeking to bring relief to these troubled areas. We pray that the food, water and medical supplies will reach those who need them most.

Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us**

Creator God, We lift to you the leaders of our nation, as they make policies which affect all of our lives. We pray that they will seek your guidance in the decisions they take affecting the health of the nation, the economy and trading agreements with other nations. We lift to you Lord the Queen and the members of the royal family, as ambassadors of peace representing our country to the world. We lift to you the members of our emergency services and armed forces, wherever they are in the service of our country.

Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us**

Creator God, we lift to you those who are sick or suffering in any way at this time. We pray that the lonely will know your presence with them, that the bereaved will experience your comfort and those who are ill will receive your healing touch upon their lives. We lift to you those who are enslaved to drugs, alcohol, nicotine or any other form of self-harm, that they will receive strength from you to leave behind these damaging addictions, instead finding in you release from their pain. We lift to you Lord, all those in the caring profession who are involved with Covid patients, and for those who are very afraid at this time.

Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us**

Creator God we lift to you ourselves and our own region in the North East of England. We pray that you will guide us in our responsibilities to reach out to others during this time of lockdown. We pray for all those who are finding it difficult to adjust to new methods of communicating during this time. We pray for you Creator God to strengthen and guide our ministers in the Methodist Church to hear your voice clearly, as they minister to people for whom they have responsibility.

Merciful Father **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Hymn:

STF 20/H&P 50/SOF 40 **Be still for the presence of the Lord**

Reading:

[Psalm 19](#)

Reflection:

As a child I knew that God made the world and the twinkling stars in the sky. As an adult I studied Astronomy and now understand more about God's creative powers.

Astronomers with their ever-increasing capabilities, have helped people to learn more about the mysterious universe, the vastness of which is largely still unknowable. The more that they discover, the more the heavens declare the glory of God. The skies do indeed proclaim the work of His hands, beyond the capability and comprehension of any human being.