

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 6 December 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 384

What kind of greatness can this be
that chose to be made small?
Exchanging untold majesty
for a world so pitiful.
That God should come as one of us,
I'll never understand.
The more I hear the story told,
the more amazed I am.

*O what else can I do
but kneel and worship you
and come just as I am,
my whole life an offering.*

2 The One in whom we live and move
in swaddling cloths lies bound.
The voice that cried, 'Let there be light',
asleep without a sound.
The One who strode among the stars
and called each one by name,
lies helpless in a mother's arms
and must learn to walk again.

3 What greater love could he have shown
to shamed humanity,
yet human pride hates to believe
in such deep humility.
But nations now may see his grace
and know that he is near,
when his meek heart, his words, his works
are incarnate in us here.

Graham Kendrick

Reading: Isaiah 40:12-31, ESV

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
or what man shows him his counsel?

¹⁴ Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?

¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.

²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skilful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² 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,

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and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
²³ who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.
²⁷ 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”?
²⁸ 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.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they 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.

Hymn: Praise! 363

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Let earth receive her King,

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

Your sweetest songs employ,

while fields and streams and hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow

nor thorns infest the ground:

he comes to make his blessings flow

where Eden's curse is found,

where Eden's curse is found,

wherever Eden's curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness,

the wonders of his love,

the wonders of his love,

the wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Sermon: Isaiah 40: 12-31 – Our Incomparable God

1. Our Incomparable God

2. Our Only Hope

Prayer

Hymn

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him*

2 Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

3 Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge

Closing Prayer