

PSALMS OF HOPE

@UnitedChurchFerndown

United Church Ferndown's 2023 Lent Programme

Saturday 4th March

Reflection #11

CHANGE THE WORLD!



Pray:

Lord, let everything I do in this season of Lent come from You, be inspired by You. I long to be closer to You. I long to receive the hope that You offer. Help me to remember that nothing is more important than You in my life. Help me to rely on You for help. I want to walk in your footsteps, Jesus. I confess that I have often felt I knew better and ignored Your presence. Heal me, Lord, and help me to find You in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out and feel your hand and love there to guide me. Speak to me in this moment, Lord God. **Amen.**

Introduction:

This psalm calls us and all the earth to worship and praise God for His greatness and majesty. The psalm emphasizes the importance of acknowledging God as the creator and ruler of the universe. This unique status needs to be marked by something special...so the psalm encourages people to sing new songs to honour Him. Some great music has been written in the past to praise God and yet the psalm commands us now to go beyond this. It says we should be expressing our praise in new ways. Perhaps this extends beyond the musical realm too. Is this psalm also encouraging a bold approach to change. Not 'change for change' sake but in recognition of God's uniqueness, an inspiration and expression of our thankfulness.



Read: Psalm 96:1-10 (NIV)

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.

Consider:

The psalm warns us not to waste our time with that which has no value, perhaps these are the things that distract us from following His purpose in new ways? Also, it includes a reminder that God will judge the nations and that His judgment is just and fair. God exists in this state, bringing together beauty and holiness in a way that we cannot. This 'specialness' validates our message to the world which leads us back to the start of the psalm, and having an attitude of wanting to praise our God in new ways and with new actions.

Pray:

Pray that we may get a chance to proclaim God's name so we can change the world together.

Try it out:

Try praying as often as you can for a day. Pray about everywhere you find yourself, everyone you meet, everything you think... It's hard! But how did it go? Proclaim God's name loudly!