

PSALMS OF HOPE

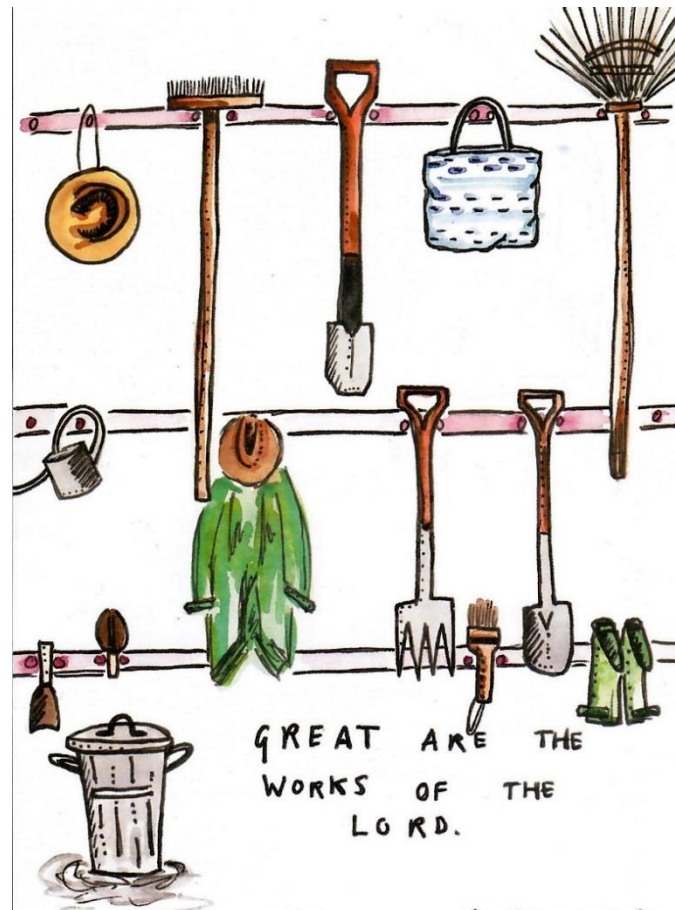
@UnitedChurchFerndown

United Church Ferndown's 2023 Lent Programme

Wednesday 8th March

Reflection #15

OUR GOD IS AMAZING!



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:

When I was in college, I had to do Greek which was really hard work. I have mild dyslexia. I took three goes at passing my English GCSE. So, learning another language seemed impossible and it was a struggle to pass that module. It was the least enjoyable activity that formed part of my training to be a minister. Yet, I appreciate that our holy book is written in other languages that don't precisely translate into English. That knowledge can enrich our understanding and the beauty of the Bible. It is also why I roll my eyes when people tell me their translation is the only right translation. But here in this psalm, a look at the Hebrew tells us that the word translated as 'study' carries with it the idea of frequent and diligent inquiry – a pondering. That kind of study engages the senses, the heart, the mind and the spirit. 'How can I see God in what's happening here?' it asks. God loves to be sought in this way (Jeremiah 29:13). So a look at the old languages can offer us a little bit more ...



Read: Psalm 111 (NASB)

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart,
In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

² Great are the works of the LORD;

They are studied by all who delight in them.

³ Splendid and majestic is His work,

And His righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has made His wonders to be remembered;

The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

⁵ He has given food to those who fear Him;

He will remember His covenant forever.

⁶ He has made known to His people the power of His works,

In giving them the heritage of the nations.

Consider:

God has done so much for us. Too often we don't notice it and we simply take it for granted. The psalmist talks about the great works of the Lord and how we can praise God when we reflect on those works. It is far too easy to take for granted all that God has done for us. We can get to the place where we expect it from him. However, when we come to the place where we delight in his works and think about all that he has done, we can praise him with such joy. The writer says that his deeds are glorious and majestic. It is simply amazing what God has done.

Many times we forget that he has worked in our lives. We have to remind ourselves that he is a God who loves us and hears our prayers and answers our prayers. If we can get into the habit of thinking about all the things that he has done, it will help us to trust him in the times that we need him most. It is good for our hearts for us to stop and to think about all that he has done in our lives. It is encouraging, comforting, and a blessing to think about those things. Not only has he provided salvation for us through his Son, Jesus, but also he has given us all that we need to live a life for him. He provides for us in our time of need. He protects us. He comforts us. God allows us the privilege to see him work miracles on a regular basis. It does our hearts good to reflect on those things that he has done. It is a great way to praise God, by thinking about and delighting in all his works. When we worship God and respond to who he is and what he has done, it deepens our level of worship when we think on all his works. They are truly amazing.

Pray:

Delight yourself in the Lord! Worship God in your prayers ...

Try it out:

Play a worship song, sing along and praise God!